19th Taste of the Marianas breaks sales records. PAGE 2
DYS: 4 kids born to drug-addicted mothers so far in 2017. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Gold Mantis workers finally get paid; scheduled to leave

DRILL COMPETITION

ERWIN ENCINARES

Cadets of the Rita Hocog Inos Jr. Sr. High School are the first place winners in the first ever Public School System middle school Leadership Corps Drill Competition. They are shown here posing with instructor Edwin Orilla, Board of Education member Herman Atalig, and Public School System associate commissioner Yvonne Pangelinan.

See story on Page 2

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

More than 90 unpaid workers of Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI), LLC have finally received their wages and placement fees and are scheduled to go back to China today at 4am.

According to sources, all of the protesters' families have confirmed that their unpaid wages have already been deposited in their Chinese bank accounts, with taxes deducted. That demand is what remained for the workers to leave the CNMI after reportedly being brought in illegally under a parole visa and

See GOLD on Page 4

Torres begins CUC board's restructuring

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres accepted yesterday the resignation of all gubernatorial appointees on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board, taking the next step in his plan to restructure the troubled agency.

Torres on Thursday asked for the resignation of all gubernatorial appointees on the board, which is among the recommendations made by the House Committee on Public Utilities and Communications. Firing the

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Marpi robbers strike thrice

» DPS forms special task force to investigate robberies; one suspect falls

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety was in the midst of creating a task force to investigate robberies when Marpi robbers struck thrice over the weekend, victimizing Chinese tourists.

The special Robbery Task Force that DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero formed led to the arrest on Sunday night of one of the suspects, identified as 28-year-old Al-

See MARPI on Page 4

Ex-DPS chief calls Ogumoro's allegations 'outrageous'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

James C. Deleon Guerrero described yesterday as outrageous the allegations levied against him by former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro.

Deleon Guerrero, a former DPS commissioner, said he welcomes any investigation.

"I will not dignify the complaint of a deranged and unhinged individual by justifying my actions or inactions during my tenure as commissioner," said Deleon Guerrero in response to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for comments pertaining to Ogumoro's allegations.

Deleon Guerrero said the allegations being levied against him are completely untrue and that he welcomes any investigation into the allegations.

He urged Ogumoro instead to return the car that he stole, pay all restitution he owes DPS, serve his community service, and serve his

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INSIDE

ASIA
North Korea launches a new type of "medium long-range" ballistic rocket.

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WORLD
Emmanuel Macron swept into office Sunday as France's new president

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LIFE & STYLE
Kara McCullough has been crowned Miss USA.

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Local

19th Taste of the Marianas breaks sales records

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The opening night of the 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas last May 6 broke records in terms of revenue in all of the 19 years that the festival has been held.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion declined to cite specific numbers but said the revenue generated on token sales was the highest ever.

"The opening night of the 19th Taste of the Marianas broke records. The amount of revenue we generated on token sales is the highest ever in all 19 years that we've had the [festival], so we are very thankful and excited about that," he said.

"It's a good sign of things to come for the CNMI," he added, referring to the high volume of tourist activity the Marianas is currently experiencing.

Day 2 of the Taste of the Marianas last Saturday saw the festival hosting its first ever *kadun pika* cookoff. *Kadun pika*, a traditional Chamorro dish that is both savory and spicy, is considered a delicacy.

Andrew Songsong, last year's hotdog-eating champion and currently the first placer in the *kadun pika* cookoff, said that although he had a few problems with the use of stewed chicken, one of the many identifying factors of *kadun pika*, he found a solution before the competition—a solution that would bring him the gold.

"I decided to use a pressure cooker last night and thank God it worked. I got really lucky [the chicken] became tender. I've also been watching a lot of Food Network [channel]," he said.

Songsong went home with a $125 gift certificate to Twins Supermarket, $250 cash, and $50 worth of Taste of the Marianas tokens.

Songsong bested seven other participants of the first ever *kadun pika* cookoff.

"It was very spicy and difficult to decide which is best. At the end of the day, [Songsong] won, so congratulations to him," said Concepcion, who was one of the judges in the cookoff.

Also participating in the festival were numerous travel agency representatives as well as media outlet representatives from Sendai, Japan through MVA's familiarization tour, which was in partnership with other airlines.

"We brought in a group of about 15 representatives of media outlets and travel agencies to come here and experience the islands. Besides TOM, we are going to experience the other islands as well as other activities here in the CNMI so that they could go back to Japan and promote it [there]," said Concepcion.

This Saturday's TOM would feature a barbecue cookoff. There are 10 slots to participate in the competition. To register for the competition, contact MVA at 664-3200.

UKE JAM CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Community School put on its 17th annual Uke Jam last May 11, with the theme "Back to the Beginning." They performed pieces from the first Uke Jam, 17 years ago. The concert was held at the SCS Chapel in Susupe.

Rota High School wins JROTC gold

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Rita Hocog Inos Jr. Sr. High School bagged first place in the first ever Public School System middle school Leadership Corps Drill Competition last Saturday at Hopwood Middle School.

As adjudged by schools JROTCs from Kagman High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Marianas High School, RHS was the only school that did not call cadence. Marching cadence is the chant made by the student commander and is most recognized as the "left, left, left right left" chant.

Despite being the only school to not call cadence, RHS was able to maintain a uniform pace accompanied by straight lines and relatively uniform arm swing, some of the biggest contributors to their victory.

RHS bested Hopwood Middle School, Dandan Middle School, Tanapag Middle School, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, and Tinian Jr. Sr. High School.

According to student commander Jesse Seman Jr., what gave them their victory was "hard work, push-ups and running; every time we go to practice, we treat it as the real thing."

Herman Atalig, a member of the Board of Education and a former sergeant major and instructor of the RHS JROTC, was impressed by the show of discipline of all of the schools.

"This is a great program to continue. I really commend the principal, the commissioner, and the associate commissioner [Yvonne Pangelinan] for continuing this program to instill discipline and for the services these children are providing at such a young age," he said.

"I hope one day they would be one of our future leaders because that is what this program is all about," he added.

Pangelinan, who is responsible for the oversight of the program, said the competition was a good opportunity to give middle school students the opportunity to exhibit what they have learned from JROTC program.

"We can definitely see the units that have been receiving mentorship by their JROTC counterparts. It's a learning experience and hopefully next year we can get a stronger partnership with the JROTC," said Pangelinan.

One of several instructors of the middle school Leadership Corps, Jeffrey Bacani, thought the competition was "rough at the edges" but as the competition continues to gain momentum through the years, improvements would definitely come out.

"This is the first time we've ever done this. So far so good, but there is always room for improvement. I am very proud of all of our cadets and hopefully next year would be better and hopefully there would be more participants," he said.

Man'amko takes over government agencies

In celebration of Older American Month, senior citizens were given the chance to take over government offices for a day.

Government offices like the Saipan Mayor's Office and the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council were taken over by the *man'amko* yesterday.

At the mayor's office, Eden Liwag took the place of Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and Nicholas Muna took over from SNIMC chair Luis Castro. Liwag was given the privilege to perform all the marriage ceremonies for the day.

According to Apatang, Liwag was also to be taken out to the field so that she could oversee the field operators and the work that they do to beautify the community.

Liwag was taken around the villages of Chalan Kanoa, Papago, and Tanapag in order to witness first hand what the mayor's office does daily for the community.

According to Apatang, it is always a good thing to have the elderly see how the government functions in the Commonwealth and to see how the CNMI is led by its leaders.

At the municipal council, Muna was taken to government events and was introduced to government officials as acting chairman. Castro was open to sharing thoughts and opinions with Muna in regards to changes and enhancements in the council.

It was the council's first year to have a *man'amko* take over the council. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

WHAT IS BULLYING?
Types of Bullying
VERBAL BULLYING
is saying or writing mean things.
Verbal bullying includes:
• Teasing
• Name-calling
• Inappropriate sexual comments
• Taunting
• Threatening to cause harm
SOCIAL BULLYING
sometimes referred to as relational bullying, involves hurting someone's reputation or relationships.
Social bullying includes:
• Leaving someone out on purpose
• Telling other children not to be friends with someone
• Spreading rumors about someone
• Embarrassing someone in public
PHYSICAL BULLYING
involves hurting a person's body or possessions.
Physical bullying includes:
• Hitting/kicking/pinching
• Spitting
• Tripping/pushing
• Taking or breaking someone's things
• Making mean or rude hand gestures
Information adapted from stopbullying.gov, a federal government website managed by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.
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DYS: 4 kids born to drug-addicted mothers so far in 2017

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

In 2017 alone, four children were born to mothers who battled drug addiction, according to the Division of Youth Services.

The trend was first noticed in 2014 when one child was reported being born with drug-use related defects. The trend started to grow with two children reported in 2015 having drug-use related defects. In 2016, five infants were reported to DYS with drug-use related birth defects.

This year, already four children showed signs of birth defects caused by drug use, based on DYS numbers.

DYS Child Protective Unit supervisor Julian Camacho said the division is authorized to take custody of children born to drug-addicted mothers. So far, nine children are under the division's care, he said.

According to Camacho, the process is long but it is necessary for the wellbeing of the child.

The process starts after receiving a report of a child born with drug-related defects. Once the child is taken into the care of the division, the mother will be taken to court. The trial could last for as long as a month, according to Camacho. The child remains in the care of the division for the duration of the trial.

According to Camacho, once full custody of the child has been granted to the division, the child is put into a kinship program established by the division. The kinship program is a foster care program that ensures that the child is placed in an environment that is free of drugs.

Camacho said even though the child is living with another family, DYS is still in custody of the child.

The division continuously checks up on each child in the program and sets up appointments for each child in order to undergo treatment for the drug-related defects.

According to Camacho, the division takes care of the children's treatments.

According to a previous *Saipan Tribune* article, drug-related birth defects include premature delivery, displacement of the placenta, small weight and height of the infant, lethargy, heart and brain abnormalities, and neurobehavioral problems.

Children born with these birth defects are prone to die due to sudden infant death syndrome, slow growth, constant admission to the intensive care unit, and an unstable home environment.

Tinian mayor conveys letter of 'extreme concern' to Chatfield

Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas has raised some concerns about the French-led exercise, Jeanne D'Arc 2017, that started on Tinian yesterday.

In a letter "of extreme concern" to Rear Adm. Shoshana S. Chatfield, commander of Joint Region Marianas that was dated yesterday, San Nicolas said that despite initial meetings more than a month ago with his military liaison/policy adviser, the tactics of the exercise's point of contacts shows a lack of transparency, which "is extremely unfortunate."

"The document providing critical information for… Tinian & Aguiguan was only transmitted via Director Randel Sablan to my advisor this past Friday, May 12, 2017, at approximately 6pm. Considering that is only [three] days before the scheduled commencement of the exercise, May 15, 2017, it is extremely disappointing," he said.

San Nicolas pointed out that this short time gives him not enough time to inform residents about a plan to do a rubber boat insertion exercise for Chulu Beach starting yesterday. He said Tinian residents fish on that beach both during the day and at night.

"We have expressed support of our relationship with the military and it is unfortunate that the people of Tinian are placed in this predicament when due diligence should have been given from the [Department of Defense's] side of the table" he said in his letter.

The exercise resumed in Guam last Saturday after being suspended when a French landing craft ran aground near Reserve Craft Beach on May 12, 2017.

Capt. Jeff Grimes, Joint Region Marianas Chief of Staff, said " We have assessed that we can resume this important multinational training after our staffs closely reviewed this incident."

Jeanne D' Arc is a French-led exercise aimed at strengthening strategic partnerships and exercise of freedom navigation operations across the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. U.S. Marine Corps and multinational forces from Japan, France, and the United Kingdom participated in the exercise.

"I am confident that we and our international partners have improved our preparation, instituted additional supervision and put in place sufficient mitigations to ensure we can safely execute the training objectives for the duration of this exercise," Grimes added. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

Ogumoro nominated to CHCC board

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has nominated Karidat Social Services executive director Lauri Ogumoro to serve on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board.

Ogumoro, who will represent Saipan on the board, completes the nominations for the corporation's five-person board of trustees.

Her nomination will need to be approved by the Senate.

Ogumoro currently serves as executive director of Karidat, a Northern Mariana Islands social services organization. It operates under the Archdiocese of Chalan Kanoa and was originally a project of now Bishop Emeritus Thomas Camacho.

Ogumoro has been serving Karidat since 2002, where she first served as manager of Guma' Esperansa, a branch of Karidat that seeks to provide assistance to abused women and children.

Ogumoro's prior experience in healthcare goes all the way back to 1984, serving as a medical social services manager up to 2001. Along with her involvement with the Commonwealth Health Center, Ogumoro has also served as administrator of the hemodialysis program in an acting capacity from 1998 to 2000.

Prior to her services at CHC, Ogumoro has served the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Office on Aging as a social worker from 1982 to 1984.

Ogumoro has a master's degree from the University of Hawaii, majoring in social work; she graduated *cum laude* of her class. Ogumoro has a bachelor's degree majoring in sociology and a minor in anthropology at the Eastern Oregon State College.

In an earlier statement from the Torres administration, Leticia Reyes and David Rosario have also been nominated to the CHCC board. Reyes, Rosario, and Ogumoro would be representing Saipan.

The date and specifics of the Senate public hearing have yet to be announced.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Notice to Prior Service Trust Fund beneficiaries

This notice applies to the Prior Service Trust Fund beneficiaries who are having their monthly benefit checks directly deposited to their account at Bank of Guam. Effective June 1, 2017, Bank of Guam will no longer perform this service for you. In the interim, until PSTF can establish an automatic deposit clearing, PSTF will be mailing your benefit check to your mailing address on file. Contact the PSTF Administration Office at telephone number 322-9753 to confirm your current mailing address by June 1, 2017. The PSTF office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8am to noon and from 1pm to 5pm. ***(PR)***

VA benefits counselor visiting Saipan

The U.S. Department of Veterans benefits administration will be visiting Saipan. A VA benefits counselor will be at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic on May 24, 2017, from 9:30am to 3:30pm to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The Saipan VA Outreach Clinic is located at the MH II Bldg., Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. ***(PR)***

MARPI

From Page 1

vin Iguel Blas.

A video of the robbery on Sunday afternoon near Banzai lookout went viral in China and in the Chinese community on Saipan, according to QQ Rent-a-Car owner James Han yesterday.

In the video, two women are seen running and screaming on the road on their way to a parked car, where a man was on the driver's seat.

According to Han, robbers victimized tourists at Bird Island Lookout on Friday morning, at Grotto on Saturday afternoon, and at Banzai Cliff on Sunday afternoon. He said all victims rented cars from his company.

Acting DPS spokesman Sgt. Jason Tarkong only released information about the robbery at Banzai Cliff.

Tarkong said one of three victims suffered minor abrasions and cuts to her extremities as she was dragged by the suspect's car. She was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center, where she was treated.

Stolen from the victims were one pink backpack, one iPhone 6S, $900 cash, three Chinese passports, and two credit cards.

The suspect was described as male, about 5'5" to 5'6" tall, tanned skin, wearing a gray or green T-shirt and a pair of khaki brown pants, and was driving a white car.

Tarkong said that, on Sunday at 2:01pm, police responded to a robbery incident near the Banzai Cliff lookout.

Police learned that a few minutes before the robbery, three Chinese female tourists, ages 24, 26, and 28, parked their pink Mustang car rental on the shoulder of the road entering Banzai cliff to take photographs.

The suspect arrived in his car, got out, approached the three tourists, and offered to help take photographs of them.

The suspect then reached inside the victims' car and grabbed the pink backpack. One of the victims held on to the backpack.

The suspect ran to his car and entered the front passenger side, while the victim was still holding on to the backpack.

The suspect drove away, dragging the victim. He managed to pull the backpack away, causing the victim to fall.

The two other victims chased the suspect's car.

Tarkong said the special Robbery Task Force obtained evidence to locate the suspect's white Hyundai Accent and the license plate number.

Tarkong said the Task Force learned that the license plate belongs to a car rental company, which then led to the identification and arrest of Blas on Sunday at 11:14pm.

In the Bird Island Lookout case, Han said two women were sightseeing aboard a Mustang car.

One of two male suspects grabbed the woman's cellphone and fled on a car.

In the Grotto robbery, Han said, five tourists were sightseeing and had parked their SUV.

Three to four male suspects, one armed with a machete, robbed them of $100 cash, credit cards, cellphones, and other items. The suspects then fled on a car.

The robbers' style used to involve damaging the cars in order to get the tourists' valuables from inside the vehicles. Han said robbers are now pointing weapons or grabbing away cash and items from the victims.

He said the series of robbery in Marpi started two or three weeks ago.

EX-DPS

From Page 1

sentence.

Deleon Guerrero said Ogumoro should respect the criminal justice system by acknowledging the jury's unanimous decision and taking full responsibility for his actions and his total disregard of the rule of law.

Ogumoro filed last week an official complaint with Attorney General Edward Manibusan about alleged corruption at DPS during the administrations of then-governors Benigno R. Fitial and Eloy S. Inos involving Deleon Guerrero, current DPS administration director Kaye Inos, and others.

In his complaint, Ogumoro alleged that Deleon Guerrero and Kaye Inos used over $40,000 in CNMI government monies to go off-island for a "lovers vacation."

Ogumoro also alleged, among other things, that Deleon Guerrero asked for 13 inmates, ostensibly to remove furniture and office equipment; instead, the inmates were made to move evidence from a DPS container to a DPS office space.

He also alleged that Deleon Guerrero stopped an investigation on a police officer who falsified overtime hours, as that officer had obtained evidence that Deleon Guerrero had sex with a minor.

Last May 2, Ogumoro was found guilty of two corruption charges and acquitted of four other charges.

The jury found him guilty of theft by deception but not guilty of theft by unlawful taking.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, who decided on the misdemeanor charges, found Ogumoro guilty of one count of misconduct in public office, not guilty of two counts of removal of government property, and not guilty of one count of misconduct in public office.

Assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley, counsel for the government, said the jury found Ogumoro guilty of stealing the 1995 Toyota Tercel owned by DPS but not the department's computer.

Ogumoro will be sentenced on Sept. 12, 2017.

TORRES

From Page 1

board was the other suggestion.

The resignation of the board, except for Commonwealth Development Authority chair Ike Perez, gives the Torres administration a free hand to choose his appointees. Most CUC board members were appointed by former governor Eloy S. Inos.

Torres informed CUC executive director Gary Camacho yesterday that he had received and accepted the resignation of all gubernatorial appointees on the board. The resignations were effective yesterday.

"As I move forward with the immediate appointment of board members to fill these vacancies, I thank you for continuing the important work of providing essential services to our community," said Torres.

Saipan Tribune tried to get a comment from Camacho but the executive director was in meetings to address important issues concerning CUC.

CUC board chair Adelina Roberto (Saipan), vice chair Eric San Nicolas (Tinian), secretary Albert Taitano (Rota), treasurer Joe Torres (Saipan), and David Sablan Jr. (nonresident) are the other members of the CUC board.

CDA, being a shareholder of CUC, has one CUC board slot; that seat is occupied by Perez.

Torres, in a statement, said the entire utilities agency, one of the autonomous corporations of the CNMI government, is more than just the board.

"It is important that we remember that CUC…is a body of 400 hardworking people who dedicate their professional lives each and every day to the benefit of our community," said Torres.

The administration said they already have a short list of close to 10 individuals. Torres now faces the laborious task of narrowing the names that would comprise the new board and help CUC executive director Gary Camacho steer the agency.

The administration declined to give further details of those on the short list but they are hoping to act on it quickly and submit the final names to the Senate so they could begin the process for the confirmation hearings.

Torres commended the entire CUC organization, which has continued to work for its ratepayers despite the controversy that surrounds the board.

"Through all its ups and downs, the employees of CUC are true public servants that want the best for the islands they serve. I am proud of them and the work they do and hope to support them as we restructure the board's composition," said Torres.

"It is my commitment to our Commonwealth that a new direction will be taken by a new board with the ratepayers' best interests in mind and with the shared goal of addressing our long term utility needs," he added.

Torres is also set to name the new composition of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, which closed down its office six months ago. It is not yet known if lone commissioner Dave Guerrero would be retained or not.

The Office of the Public Auditor, in a report released early this month, also suggested that CUC's financial standing would be better without the presence of an active board.

Brief background

Torres' move to ask for the CUC board's resignation was prompted in part by events that transpired last month, after the board approved a controversial deal that involved the planned purchase of an engine.

It was discovered that the planned purchase did not go through the proper procurement process, with some board members reportedly having conflict of interests. The board awarded the contract to General Pacific Services Marianas Inc.

Some board members were reportedly related to winning bidder GPSM. Sen. James V. Espaldon of Guam was involved as the spokesperson and representative of the GPSM contract.

CUC board member Taitano, based on GPSM's articles of incorporation, was registered as agent for the service of legal process. It was also later revealed that Philip Roberto, GPSM's vice president, was chair Roberto's stepson.

The board cancelled the project after the House of Representatives and the Senate held consecutive oversight hearings on the matter.

GOLD

From Page 1

false promises made by a third party recruiter in China.

Gold Mantis promised the workers that their unpaid wages, along with a reimbursement of their placement fees, minus local taxes, would be deposited in their Chinese bank accounts by 10am yesterday. As of 5pm yesterday, it was reportedly confirmed that Gold Mantis has already deposited the amounts.

The workers were also informed that they would be picked up at 12am last night for departure to China at 4am today. Each worker also expect to receive $1,600 upon departure, as promised by Gold Mantis.

Although Gold Mantis reportedly did not give the workers their plane tickets prior to leaving for the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport, the workers were promised that they would get their tickets as they board the plane, along with the promised $1,600. The workers were reportedly scheduled to be picked up from their dormitories last night.

The confirmation of family members that Gold Mantis had already deposited their unpaid wages was the workers' last demand before going back to China.

Having entered the CNMI to work for Gold Mantis under parole authority, the workers were reportedly told to stop working when a worker fell to his death from a four-storey scaffold on March 22, 2017. Since then, the workers have gone without both work and pay, leading to multiple protests.

An earlier statement from a representative of Gold Mantis named Robert Gemmill said that the company has been "providing and is continuing to provide humanitarian aid to as many as 91 individuals who we understand were, until recently, working on the Imperial Pacific hotel and casino project."

The statement claimed Gold Mantis has been working with both CNMI and U.S. government authorities as well as Karidat "with respect to the logistics of providing this humanitarian aid, which includes food, water, and lodging."

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, the company that hired Gold Mantis, said in its most recent statement that it "denounces in the strongest terms harboring of illegal workers by some of its contractors [and] subcontractors and will continue to work with authorities in the amicable resolution of issues."

Gold Mantis is not the only contractor or subcontractor that is accused of illegally harboring aliens as well as failing to pay them wages. It was previously reported that MCC International has been committing the same acts. An arrest warrant was issued last April 4, 2017, after a complaint charged MCC project manager Yuqing Zhao and MCC electrician Pei Ruan with the unlawful employment of aliens and bringing in and harboring certain aliens.

Representatives of Beilida Overseas (CNMI), another construction company that is allegedly faces the same charge as MCC, were also arrested. Xiufang Qi and Wencai Guo of Beilida were stopped and arrested last April 5 at the Saipan airport as they were attempting to leave the CNMI.

The whereabouts of MCC officials have yet to be known.

Suspected main supplier of 'ice' on Saipan arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested in Gualo Rai on Friday afternoon a suspected supplier of methamphetamine on Saipan.

Xinqiang Zheng, 24, also known as Shawn, was taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday for bail hearing on charges of trafficking and possession of a controlled substance.

Camacho imposed a $200,000 cash bail.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark was appointed as counsel for Zheng. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilbersheild appeared for the government.

Police said a cooperating defendant had disclosed that a Chinese man known as Shawn is known to be one of the main suppliers of "ice" on the island. During a "buy-walk operation" last April 12, the cooperating defendant allegedly managed to buy $750 worth of "ice" from Zheng, who used an associate to hand over the drugs.

During a second "buy-walk operation" last April 25, the cooperating defendant was able to purchase "ice" worth $1,250 from Zheng.

Bogdan honored by nomination

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

"It's a great honor just to be nominated by the governor."

Wesley M. Bogdan had this to say yesterday when asked for comments about Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' announcement over the weekend, appointing him to serve as an associate judge of the Superior Court.

Bogdan said the appointment must still be confirmed by the Senate.

Bogdan

"I hope to receive a positive evaluation from that legislative body and look forward to the opportunity to continue public service in the Mariana Islands," he said.

Bogdan's nomination is intended to replace David A. Wiseman, who retired in May 2016 after 15 years on the bench.

Torres said he is confident in Bogdan's abilities and has no doubt that he will serve the CNMI with dignity and integrity as a member of the Judiciary.

Bogdan is currently the legal counsel of the Office of the Governor. He worked in that same capacity during the administration of then-governor Eloy S. Inos.

After graduating from law school in his home state of New Mexico, Bogdan worked as a judicial clerk for the New Mexico Court of Appeals in Albuquerque from 1992 to 1994.

He moved to the CNMI in 1994 to work in the government as an assistant attorney general and later as an assistant public defender. He then also worked in private practice in four law firms on Saipan.

OAG's request to continue trial of ex-DPW staff in sexual abuse case denied

A request by the Office of the Attorney General on Friday to move the jury trial of a former Department of Public Works employee accused of sexually abusing a 15-year-old girl was denied yesterday.

The case against David Blanco Santos is set to start on June 19.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho pointed out that the case against Santos was originally filed in December 2016, which means that prior to filing charges, the OAG should have or would have reviewed the evidence and interviewed witnesses.

The jury summons is already in the process of being issued he added.

The judge pointed out that the Marshal Service Division needs at least four weeks to serve the jury summons and the jury trial has already been continued once.

On Friday, four weeks before the trial, assistant attorney general Teri C. Tenorio, counsel for the government, filed a motion to postpone trial, saying that Santos and the alleged victim have a recent death in the family.

In denying the request, Camacho also pointed out that any interview of the alleged victim should have been done already. If the alleged victim has not been interviewed yet, then the government has more than four weeks, which is ample time to conduct it, he added.

The judge ordered that the June 19 jury trial shall proceed. He ordered the parties to come prepared to discuss the proposed jury instructions and verdict form at the pretrial conference on May 17 at 9am.

Santos, 50, is charged with one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree and one count of disturbing the peace.

Santos was not arrested, but penal summons was issued on Dec. 28, 2016, ordering him to appear in court last Jan. 23 for arraignment. Santos appeared at the arraignment with his counsel, assistant public defender Nancy Dominski.

The defendant pleaded not guilty.

According to the information, Santos sexually abused the girl on Aug. 2, 2016. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Author invites public to book signings

Author Katrina Manning invites stateside residents to see her during the first two stops of her intimate U.S. book tour. Her book signings will perform a double duty: meeting people in person and donating a portion of her funds to animal shelters.

Manning will be signing her first book, *"Marmalade's Exciting Tail"* on Sunday, June 25, at 1pm to 3pm at Petsmart, 600 Greenville Blvd SE, Greenville, NC 27858. A portion of her proceeds will be donated to Saving Graces 4 Felines.

She will then have a book signing at the Utah Pet Adoption Center on Saturday, July 29, 1pm to 4pm, 1955 N. Redwood Rd, Salt Lake City, UT, 84116.

Manning is the daughter of Ed and Frances Kilili Arriola of Saipan and Keith and Yolanda Manning of Dallas, Texas. Growing up on Saipan, she attended Saipan Community School, Grace Christian Academy, and the Northern Marianas College before moving to the U.S. mainland to complete her college degree and further her career.

In addition, she helped to create the Saipan Dreams Fan Fiction contest with the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. The fan fiction contest will be back in early December of 2017.

Apart from penning The Marmalade Series, Manning has been writing full-time for several global software companies since 2009. Dates for future book signings will be posted on The Marmalade Series Facebook page.

She has fond memories of life on Saipan, from the mesmerizing beaches to eating her favorite dishes: chicken *kelaguen* and *latiya*. Manning hopes she'll get to see some mainland-based locals along her first U.S. tour. ***(PR)***

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Shirley's joins healthy eating program

Shirley's Coffee Shop operations manager Noelle Macario is flanked by REACH program coordinator Becky Robles, right, and Public Health director Margaret Aldan, left, at the Shirley's branch in Susupe.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. recently added a family favorite restaurant to its relatively new health program.

Shirley's Coffee Shop was officially accepted into the REACH Biba healthy program of CHCC.

The REACH Biba healthy program was a program created three years ago in order to promote healthy eating in the Commonwealth. According to program coordinator Becky Robles, REACH stands for Racial Ethnic Approach to Community Health. The program's main purpose is to reach out to restaurants on island and encourage them to join the program. Restaurants who have joined or are interested in participating in the program would alter items on their menu to make them healthier, or the restaurant could add a whole new dish to their menu that meets the criteria of the REACH program.

Shirley's, according to Robles, is a family restaurant on island that is widely known. Having Shirley's join the program means more families would be offered healthy options.

According to Shirley's operations manager Noelle Macario, it took a year for the restaurant to be officially part of the REACH Biba Healthy program because of all the requirements that they needed approved for their new menu.

Shirley's added four new dishes to their menu that encourages healthy eating. The four additional meals are marked with the REACH Biba health insignia.

According to Macario, it took a while for the recipes to be approved because of the process the food needed to undergo.

Shirley's cooks were required to create new healthy dishes that contain little to no sodium, no MSG, and to substitute fried sides with salads or fruits.

According to Robles, restaurants interested in joining the program should check out the REACH website, http://reachcnmi.wixsite.com/reach/about-czre for additional information.

Nenpou Shinkyou makes 11th pilgrimage to CNMI

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

Members of the Nenpou Shinkyou Buddhist Denomination conducted their 11th memorial ceremony last Sunday at the Last Command Post in Marpi.

The ceremony was intended to honor Japanese soldiers and civilians who lost their lives during World War II.

The ceremony was first established by the Nenpou Shinkyou Buddhist Denomination in 2007 and has been an annual event since then.

According to the remarks of Nenpou Shinkyou president Ryohan Ichimiya, Nenpou Shinkyou leaders fervently pray for eternal peace for the fallen Japanese of World War II and for war to never repeat itself.

Government officials came to show their respects and to honor the bond between the Commonwealth and the Japanese community.

Among the government officials present at the memorial ceremony yesterday were Saipan Mayor David Apatang, Municipal Council chair Luis Castro, and Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan).

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion said the group's pilgrimage to the Marianas is always welcome and he hopes the denomination will continue this annual visit.

According to Apatang, the Commonwealth will continue to welcome the memorial ceremony.

"We always welcome our friends, the Nenpou Shinkyou, for their annual event," he said.

According to Apatang, this year's ceremony was smaller than the last, with only a little over 40 members of the Nenpou Shinkyou participating this year. He hopes for a bigger crowd in next year's ceremony.

The newly appointed Japanese consul, Kinji Shinoda, who was also present for the ceremony, emphasized how important the ceremony is to the relationship that Japan shares with the Commonwealth.

According to Shinoda, the ceremony also serves to unite the Commonwealth and the Japanese citizens who come out to pray for the deceased.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/SWMD17-RFP-016

IDENTIFICATION, SEPARATION, STAGING, RECOVERING, PERFORMING VOLUME REDUCTION, AND DISPOSING OF DEBRIS GENERATED AS A RESULT OF TYPHOON SOUDELOR

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals to provide for Identification, Separation, Staging, Recovering, Performing Volume Reduction, and Disposing of Debris Generated as a result of Typhoon Soudelor, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with §70-30.3-210 (competitive sealed proposals) of the Procurement Regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Scope of Services will be available on or after **May 16, 2017** at the Solid Waste Management Division office, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan, MP 96950. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred-Dollars (US$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the Solid Waste Management Division office.

A **Mandatory** Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., local time, at the Solid Waste Management Division office, Lower Base Transfer Station on **June 2, 2017.** Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Enrique Dela Cruz, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 322-2762 no later than 4:00 p.m. local time **June 14, 2017.**

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW/SWMD17-RFP-016."** For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 (formerly Emergency Management Office behind CHRB Postal Office), no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, **June 20, 2017.**

Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose.** Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, **June 20, 2017,** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 20, 2017** and must be received no later **June 29, 2017.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of proposal.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section **70-30.3-245** and must be able to obtain a CNMI Business License prior to contract award.

Procurement of these services is made in accordance with NMIAC Section 70-30.3-210 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Proposals for the project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Technical Approach: (40% weight)
2. Qualifications of Key Staff: (25% weight)
3. Representative Projects: (25% weight)
4. Cost: 10%

Technical merit is more important than price and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest proposer. As proposals become more equal in technical merit, the importance of price will increase.

Award shall be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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INVITATION FOR BIDS

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BID SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 6, 2017 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2017-002

"Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Tinian (20 units)"

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, is hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Tinian.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Monday, May 15, 2017, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Tinian Field Office during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Tinian Field Office on **Friday, May 26, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.** Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to the NMHC Corporate Director at P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 30, 2017.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Richard Angel Santos/
Luisa Lee Santos
P.O. Box 503389 CK,
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No.: 483-9232

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of Adoption of AJLS Minor Child By Richard Angel Santos Luisa Lee Santos Petitioner(s)	)	FDC-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0177 Amended NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 26, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 10th day of May, 2017.

/s/ Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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Docomo Pacific begins marine lay for ATISA cable

Docomo Pacific announced last Thursday the start of the marine lay for its ATISA submarine fiber-optic cable system.

On May 11, Docomo Pacific hosted a landing ceremony for ATISA at Aquarius Beach on Saipan. Members of Docomo Pacific's leadership team were joined by island dignitaries and business leaders for the event. Similar landing ceremonies will take place on Tinian and Rota later this month. Following the marine lay, the Docomo Pacific team will conduct end-to-end testing of the cable system before ATISA is ready for full service in the Marianas by August.

The marine lay began in Guam on May 6 following the arrival of the CS *Responder*, the vessel that will perform the physical cable installation between Guam and the CNMI. Guests and island media were given the opportunity to tour the vessel and learn about the marine lay process from project managers.

With ATISA, the services Docomo Pacific provides to customers in Guam will become available to the entire CNMI. This means the people of the Marianas can look forward to internet speeds up to 100 mbps and mobile 4G services. "Along with reliability, our mobile network will provide extensive coverage allowing you to have a great experience where you live, work, and play. These upgrades will allow consumers to stream, download and upload faster than ever before," a company statement said.

Docomo Pacific will make available the television entertainment system TiVo, the option of over 200 cable TV channels, fixed line telephone, and an array of enterprise solutions.

Dino Manning, Docomo Pacific CNMI general manager said: The cable landings in Guam and the CNMI are a major step toward the launch of ATISA. We are ready to raise the level of communication and improve the entertainment experience in the CNMI. ATISA is more than just a commercial venture, but will offer choice to the people of the Marianas and a range of new, innovative services in mobile, TV, online, and digital phone.

In 2016, Docomo Pacific inked an agreement with NEC Corp. and the governments of the CNMI and Guam to bring this project to life. NEC is contracted to build ATISA.

Hiroshi Kawakami, NEC Corp. project manager, said: "NEC has a long history of supplying submarine cable systems in the region and we are proud to share this milestone with Docomo Pacific today. As the cable laying work begins, we look forward to seeing the transformation of communications connectivity between Guam and the CNMI."

Ocean Specialists Inc., a leading subsea cable consulting firm, is advising Docomo Pacific on the ATISA project and providing project management support.

Tony Mosley, director of Ocean Specialists Inc. in the Asia Pacific, said: OSI has appreciated the focus and drive with which the Docomo Pacific team has led the project. We are certain the network will bring significant benefits to the Marianas." ***(Saipan Tribune)***

BEA CABRERA

Dino Manning, Docomo Pacific CNMI general manager, gives an opening speech during a landing ceremony for ATISA at Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel on Saipan.

ERWIN ENCINARES

The deck of the cable ship *Responder*. The deck is also where the fiber-optic cable is being prepared before being laid underwater.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fifteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. at the Office of the Commissioner of Education Conference Room, Building 1211, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA[1]

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Swearing In of Non Public School Representative
5. Adoption of Minutes
   a. April 26, 2017 Special Board Meeting

II. Public Comments[2]

III. Reports
1. Chair
2. Board Committees
   a. FPA
3. Commissioner of Education
   a. Financial Status Reports
      i. Federal
      ii. Local
   b. Head Start Program
   c. Others

IV. Unfinished Business
1. Commissioner Goals and Objectives

V. New Business
1. FY 2016 Audit
2. Consolidated Grant Application FY 2018
3. Revised Organizational Chart & Functional Chart
4. Head Start Program
   a. Change of Scope
   b. Early Head Start Grant Application SY 2017-2018
   c. Head Start Grant Application SY 2017-2018
5. MOA for Hard To Fill Positions for Non HQP
6. CJMT Marianas Military Build Up
7. Certification and Licensure Matters
   a. CLO Report 2017-006

VI. Executive Session[3]
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel/Certification
3. Other matters

VII. Discussion of Agenda for June 14, 2017 Regular Board Meeting on Rota

VIII. Adjournment

[1] In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.
[2] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[3] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Child seat checkpoints on Saipan

The Department of Public Safety's Highway Patrol will be conducting occupant protection and child restraint on May 24, 27, and 30.

On May 24, Wednesday, the first checkpoint will be from Beach Road, Garapan to Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa from 7am to 9am.

The second checkpoint will be from Chalan Pale Arnold, Puerto Rico to Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau from 10am to 12pm.

On May 27, Saturday, the first checkpoint will be from Beach Road, Garapan to Beach Road, Susupe from 5pm to 7pm.

The second checkpoint will be from Chalan Pale Arnold, Garapan to Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau from 8pm to 10pm.

On May 30, the first checkpoint will be from Beach Road, Chalan Laulau to Beach Road, San Antonio from 9am to 11am.

The second checkpoint will be from Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose to Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dandan from 12pm to 2pm.

In addition, police will be conducting laser speed enforcement along various highways. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 76th birthday, Grandma Rita! "A woman so graceful, so fine and beautiful. A woman with a penchant, for everything elegant. A woman with poise, and refined choice. My dear grandmother, like you there is no other…" We love you very much! Greetings come from your children, grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren.

SBDC holds free workshops on how to start a business

By BEA CABRERA
REPORTER

The Small Business Development Center held a three-day small business development workshop last May 8-11, 2017, to help aspiring entrepreneurs how to start their own business and maintain them.

Nicole Babauta, the center's new head, said, "I started last March in this new position and my goal is to be able to host trainings monthly."

The center has been doing free workshops on different business topics, empowering entrepreneurs by giving them information, knowledge, and trainings that add value to a budding entrepreneur's hopes and dreams.

"I am reaching out to groups such as the Society for Human Resource Management to be able to partner with different organizations about different types of trainings," Babauta said.

Last week's three-day workshop addressed the basic needs of an aspiring businessman: How to write a business plan, how to create a marketing plan, coming up with a financial plan, and credit.

Denise Mendiola, Guam SBDC senior business adviser, led the trainings. "One of the satisfying things of working at SBDC is being able to interact with people, especially when they are aspiring entrepreneurs. We see how passionate they are so we feed that drive with knowledge and they are the people we like to connect with."

The free workshops are open to the public.

The center does not only gives seminars and workshops; it also becomes a partner for aspiring entrepreneurs.

"After the workshops, we still keep in touch. Even though they are in business and they've started, they still run through challenges and so we are there with them. Every time that they have a challenge, they can call or email us and we will help them solve that problem. We stay with them all the way until the end," Mendiola added.

Nicole Babauta of the Small Business Development Center, standing, gives an introduction to participants on what to expect in the workshops.
BEA CABRERA

Aside from seminars and workshops, offering courses on technical skills is in the horizon.

"It is a program that I am looking to grow," Babauta said.

The center does not only help start a business but helps create jobs.

" We do one-on-one advisement for individuals who are looking to start a business and as a result, I hope that can retain and create jobs in the community," Babauta added.

For more information on upcoming workshops, go to www.pacificsbdc.com.

On May 10, 2017, 20 Ayuyu JROTC cadets received their awards for the year. From top left corner: Cadet/1st Lt. Camacho De Faustina received Superior Award, Cadet/Capt. Jack Lizama received the Citizenship Award, Capt. James Burke, Cadet/Lt. Col. Alfredo Ngalongalo received the Superior Award, Cadet/Sgt. Bryan Camacho received the Cadet of the Semester award, Cadet/PFC Nina Valdisimo received the Citizenship Award, Cadet/Sgt. Aira Ngalongalo received the Citizenship Award, Cadet/SSgt. Anthony Reyes received the Citizenship Award, Cadet/2nd Lt. Mikah Bandoja received Amvets Award, Cadet/CPL Daenisha Babauta received Amvets Award, Cadet/CSM Donald Pangelinan received the Superior Award, Cadet/CPL Kiesha Duenas received the Achievement Award, Cadet/PFC Jerrilyn Reyes received Amvets Award, Cadet/2nd Lt. Lilly Sablan received the Amvets Award, Cadet/1st Lt. Regiene Babauta received the Veteran of Foreign Wars award, and SFC Giovanni Siruelo. From bottom left: Cadet/Maj. Nathan Santos received the Star Performer Award, Cadet/Capt. Dionessis Valdisimo received Scottish Rite award, Cadet/SGM Peter Camacho received the Citizenship Award, Cadet/LTC Kayleen Faisao received the Military Officers Association of America award, Cadet/SSG Jolyn Ocampo received the Veteran of Foreign Wars award, Cadet/Maj. Edson Valdisimo received the Superior Cadet award.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Senior Army instructor, Capt. James Burke, Kagman High School principal Leila Staffler, the new battalion commander, cadet Lt. Col. Kayleen Faisao, and the battalion commander's mother, Jennifer Tedtaotao.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Faisao is new Ayuyu Battalion commander

Cadet Capt. Kayleen Faisao has been promoted to cadet lieutenant colonel and is the new battalion commander of the Kagman High School Ayuyu Battalion for school year 2017-2018.

Cadet Lt. Col. Alfredo Ngalongalo Jr. passed the Ayuyu Battalion command to the new battalion commander last week on May 10, 2017, by the authority of senior Army instructor Capt. James Burke and KHS principal Leila Staffler. ***(PR)***

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The Magellan
PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVII, Issue No. 96

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MEMBER

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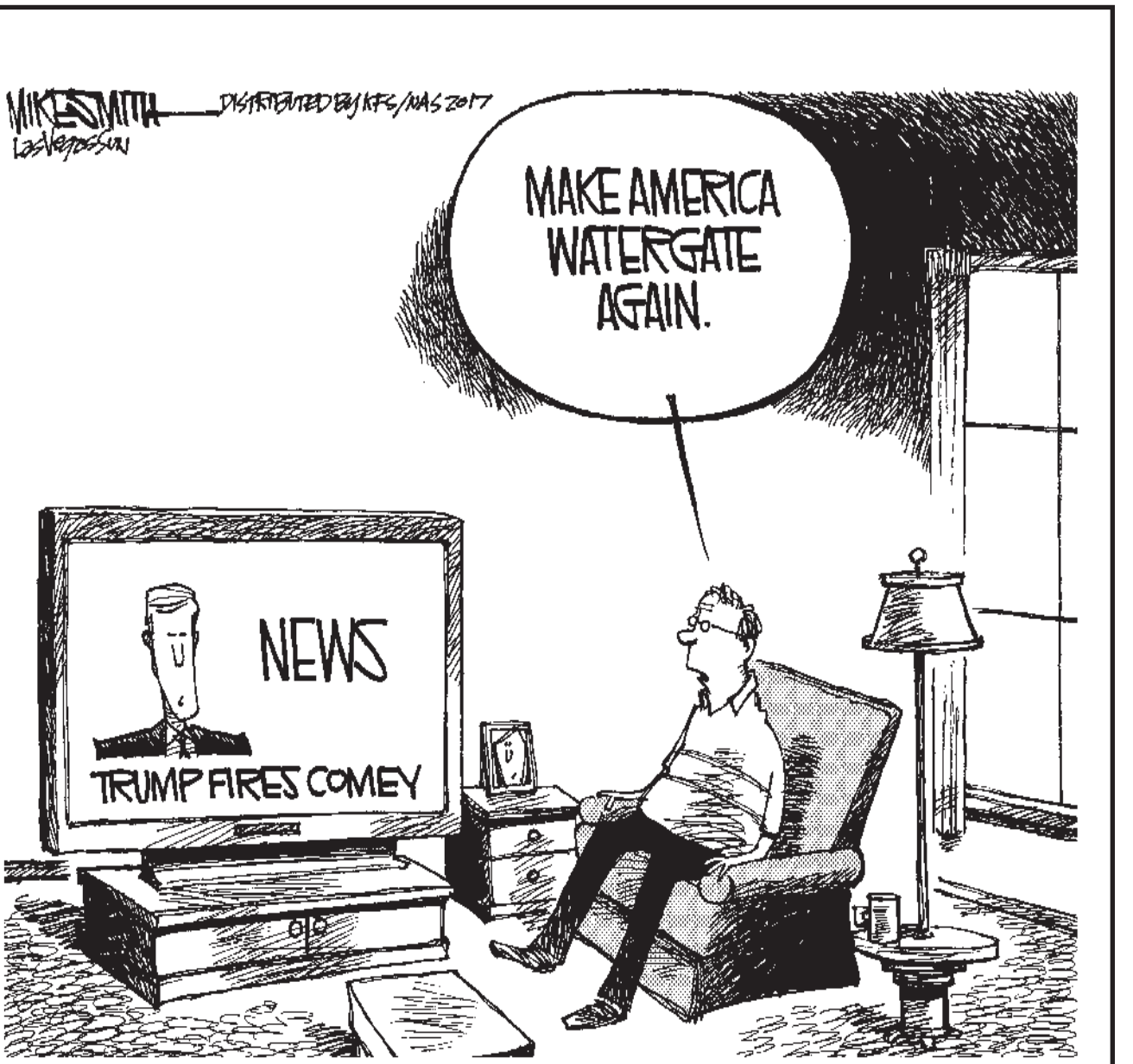


Of course you got rid of Comey

By RAMESH PONNURU
Bloomberg View

Ramesh Ponnuru is a Bloomberg View columnist. Readers may email him at rponnuru@bloomberg.net.

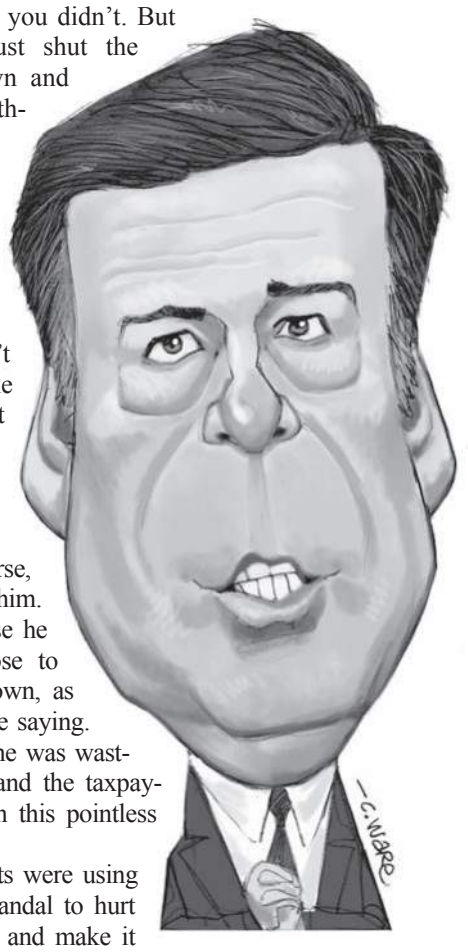
You know you did nothing wrong.

You always know. Did Roger or Carter talk to the Russians about Hillary's emails? How would you know? Roger loves all that dirty-tricks stuff. You weren't around those guys every minute of every day, and they weren't telling you every single thing they did.

Anyway, it's not why you won the election. You won because the people wanted to make America great again and didn't want lying Hillary.

But the Democrats can't accept that. They've gone crazy. They deny you're a legitimate president. They fantasize about impeaching you; they say all kinds of horrible things.

Comey knows you're not some Russian agent. He knows the FBI has never found any evidence you did anything wrong, because you didn't. But he wouldn't just shut the Democrats down and say there's nothing there.



He didn't want to take that heat. Here he was, a member of your administration, and he wouldn't even be a little helpful. And not once did he even say "sorry" for the trouble he caused you.

So, of course, you got rid of him. It wasn't because he was getting close to bringing you down, as your enemies are saying. It was because he was wasting your time, and the taxpayers' money, with this pointless investigation.

The Democrats were using this made-up scandal to hurt your presidency and make it impossible for you to do all the great things you promised the American people. Comey was helping their plot by refusing to tell the truth.

Were you just supposed to sit there and let these fabrications keep going?

Yes, Mr. President, you were.

GOP's spineless chorus

By MATT WELCH
Los Angeles Times

Matt Welch is editor at large of Reason*, a magazine published by the libertarian Reason Foundation, and a contributing writer to the* Los Angeles Times *opinion section.*

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, the noted former litigator and poster boy for constitutional conservatism, had some stern words for the attorney general of the United States. "Predecessors of yours in both parties, Democrat and Republican, when faced with serious charges of abuse of power for partisan gain," Cruz said, "have made the right decision and appointed special prosecutors."

The year was 2014. The allegation was that the Internal Revenue Service was disproportionately targeting tea party-affiliated groups for heightened tax-status scrutiny. And the special prosecutor—actually special counsel; the prosecutor job expired with the enabling statute back in 1999—was never appointed. It should have been then. It should be now.

But not according to Cruz, 2017 edition. On Wednesday, the senator released a brief statement agreeing with President Trump's sudden firing of FBI Director James B. Comey, no matter how suspiciously timed or absurdly justified. "Unfortunately," Cruz said, "Mr. Comey had lost the confidence of both Republicans and Democrats, and, frankly, the American people."

We expect that kind of ritual partisan insincerity from the likes of Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., a serial Obama-era supporter of special counsels who sure enough responded to Trump's ham-handed behavior by chortling hackishly about "Democratic colleagues complaining about the removal of an FBI director whom they themselves repeatedly and sharply criticized."

But the tea party generation of Constitution-waving legislators, with their Federalist Papers quotations on separation of powers and Senate stemwinders on executive power abuse, was supposed to be different. Contemptuous of mindless party loyalty, uncommonly serious about the oversight function of Congress: Surely they would understand that an ongoing FBI investigation into the relationship between associates of a sitting president and a foreign adversary needs to be maximally shielded from Oval Office meddling?

Think again. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., one of 31 GOP senators in 2012 to demand a special counsel to investigate high-profile national security leaks, is in 2017 the leading opponent of what he calls "the hysteria of a special prosecutor" regarding all things Trump-Russia. "Many of these Democrats, including Chuck Schumer, said they lost confidence in Comey a long time ago," Paul said on Trump's favorite morning show, "Fox & Friends," Wednesday, echoing the administration line. "They should be thanking President Trump."

The GOP holds only a four-seat advantage in the Senate, 52-48, and more Republican senators than that have already expressed dismay at Comey's firing. Jeff Flake of Arizona said he could not find an "acceptable rationale." Richard Burr of North Carolina said he was "troubled by the timing and reasoning," a sentiment seconded by Nebraska's Ben Sasse. And Arizona's John McCain, among others, called for the creation of a "special congressional committee."

In the near term, the most important thing that conscientious senators can do is make damn sure that whoever the president appoints as the new FBI director is not some authoritarian-leaning political toady being rewarded for helping Trump during the campaign. In other words, not New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie or former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. Not another Jeff Sessions.

In February, Sessions sailed through confirmation via unanimous Republican vote, despite a long, ugly track record of opposing criminal justice reforms championed by the likes

See GOP on Next Page

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What price integration?

The political movement in Guam to integrate the entire Marianas archipelago under one political body is not a very good idea for us. City and county of Hagatña. Do we want that? Do we, now, want to merge with Guam, and be a branch of Guam?

Reintegration. Reunification. Not the correct designation. We have been separated from each other for more than a century. We have a different kind of people in our community now, true with Tinian as well as with Rota. We're just, now, different in our thinking, political ideology, and quest, from Guam.

We got what we want, similar to those of Guam. By that, I mean in our CNMI community we have Filipinos, Koreans, Okinawans, Chinese, Nepalese, Thais, Russians, Germans, Americans, etc. Which people can vote if we have another plebiscite for integration with Guam?

Who is Guam? Guam has different political aspirations. The indigenous Chamorros there are our ancestors; that's a century ago. Now, there are different ethnic groups and it is culturally diverse. After the Spanish-American War, the U.S. retained Guam, and gave us away. We wanted to join Guam, along with our own agenda, but Guam rejected us. I think at that time, Guam was not thinking of shooting for statehood.

By coming here in the 1950s, that was tantamount to the political slate of wanting to be the government center for the Marianas, like that of the city and county of Honolulu. The political movement has never stopped. Guam has been trying to get off the yoke of the American colonist while trying to negotiate a better political status. All they got was the Organic Act in 1950, like that of early Hawaii. Guam is not an incorporated territory.

But other than that, what else does the Organic Act of 1950 do for Guam that our Covenant and Constitution don't do for us, CNMI? If we merge with Guam, things will definitely change. Guam runs short of political benefits from the Organic Act. To the Guamanians, they have become a tightly supervised colony. It doesn't like that. Reading Penelope Bordallo Hofschneider's book, "*A Campaign for Political Rights in the Island of Guam 1899-1950*," shows the Guamanians as feeling politically suppressed, choked if you will, and their quest is frustrated by the attitude of the various American administering authorities who look at Guam condescendingly. It was almost like us and the rest of Micronesia, with the military and the TTPI administrations.

I read, "…bring them along slowly into the 20th century so that their culture stays intact…" President Kennedy disagreed, and sent in the Peace Corps and the AESCP to hasten Micronesia in formulating itself with the assistance of these two great programs. I think the entire Micronesian region was getting only about $6 million a year from the United States. One Congress of Micronesia delegate stated that one fighter jet plane was more expensive than what Micronesia was getting annually. Now, there's a political movement in Guam. Is that in anticipation of our meeting? Did Guam have a change of heart about integrating with us? I ask Guam, what gives? Do you want us so you can go for statehood? Is that it? Guam want to change its political framework to include the Northern Mariana Islands? Reintegration. Reunification. That issue again?

I say this political status, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is good. CNMI Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro's bill to form another political status commission got us asking, what's wrong with our present status? Her bill didn't say anything that we haven't heard since 1945. We got what we wanted from the U.S. We tried with Guam, to no avail. For this instant, our status is good. What does she want to add or change?

Former Mariana Islands District Legislature president Ben N. Santos said that our current status is good. Guam should think back to the late 1960s and 1970s and ask why we wanted to merge. We wanted citizenship and all the benefits that come with that status. There is nothing wrong with desiring a better life if it could be achieved. But Guam had, and still has, a different opinion of us. We were backward. I just took that with a grain of salt, sort of speaking.

What are we going to get with Ogumoro's status commission? A waste of our money, according to Ben Santos. Years ago, Guam held a plebiscite, and shot down our proposed integration. Guam's rejection of our "quest" was a "spike" through our heart. They said the Saipanese went to Guam with the Japanese army and tortured them and even killed several of them. Guam was extremely bitter toward us Saipanese. But now that bitter feeling seems to be a bit suppressed because of a political agenda, a quest for a different status or maybe statehood. At our expense.

People who I talked to were asking that if we ever merge with Guam politically, where would we be in that scenario? The only direction I could guess is "subservient to Guam." Molokai to Honolulu. "City and county of Hagatña." Like Honolulu, Hawaii. That's the only kind of political arrangement I could think of for this archipelago. Hagatña would be our capital city, the governor would be in Guam, all taxes and fees would first go to Guam and then parceled out to each island municipality. The mayor would be our top official here. Our infrastructure, i.e., CIP, would start its downslide due to diminishing budgetary funding, revenue would not come to us directly, but to Guam first. What about our current retirement coffer?

This merging with Guam is not going to be easy on us. Lots of issues to be solved. Issues that at this instant, we hold dear to our heart, issues we really worked for during the political status negotiation, the Covenant, our two constitutional conventions, our present governmental setup, boards and commissions, bicameral legislature, and three senatorial districts, losing the monies from our CPA, MPLT land lease, the revenue from the casinos and hotels, our tourist industry, Managaha. It would be really costly for us but beneficial for Guam. We are going to lose many of these. Guamanian will merge with our employees. Guam might introduce a real estate tax. Because we "are" part of the "city and county of Guam," we may lose a lot of what we are getting now. I do not see our winning anything. Therefore, forget political negotiation. We're all right for 41 years, learning experience on quasi-self-government but it's all right, too. We need to retain our money, land, and whatever revenue on the horizon. Or just forego the negotiation.

Our Commonwealth needs a lot of updating. Guam negotiators have something up their sleeves for just this summit. And, after all, you don't show your hands in a card game. We must now start reviewing and hashing out everything we have up to this point, and come to a consensus on every maneuver for each one of them if we do meet them. Even if we're not meeting Guam, to be prepared is the best policy. We may lose our Covenant and our constitution. Our government will disappear and only the three municipal corporations stay. No Commonwealth Legislature, only municipal council. We may have a mass corporate downsizing. We lose our Constitution for that of Guam, which will be amended to embrace the entire Marianas archipelago. And when we lose our Covenant and constitution we lose our valued Article 12. That opens up Pandora's box. U.S. citizens from other regions would come and apply for homesteads and we lose. We can't say no. Banks will foreclose and put it up for sale. We cannot deny the military's land need. It will come and put up a stake, here and there, and over there. We lose our land, we lose our culture. We lose our culture, we lose our identity, because land is linked to culture. No land, where is culture. No identity. Like the Israelis, no Palestine, no identity. They become nomads, wayfarers. Culture depends on land ownership, which gives it an identity. Because we're going to end up with a governmental structure like that of the "city and county of Honolulu," we first must have land, then we study political structure of Hawaii, or the Cook Island to New Zealand.

Penny Bordallo Hofschneider "*A Campaign for Political Rights on the Island of Guam-1898 to 1950"* shows how hard Guam has been struggling for some kind of political identity. What about us? Do away with our Covenant and our Constitution? Would that be wise to do? Because we are not destined to be a state of the United States, could we ask Congress to allow us to vote for the president of the United States from here without the absentee ballot or electors? Unconstitutional? If we are allowed electors, then what? We ask for a seat in Congress. It will be us, Norteños versus Guam. Election campaign, if ever. How elated would we be to be able to vote for the U.S. President, dump the Covenant, dump our Constitution in favor of Guam's? It would be costly.

Let's just stay as we are for the time being. We, the CWs, casinos, visa-free Chinese, etc. Let's listen to Oscar Rasa and Ben Santos, two of our veteran negotiators.

Rudolfo M. Sablan
Garapan, Saipan

GOP

From Page 10

of Paul and Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah. Back then, Paul reasoned that, hey, Sessions agrees with the president on those issues, and therefore so would any replacement nominee.

That kind of party-line deference helped bring us to where we are today. Sessions was reportedly tasked with finding a reason to fire Comey. It's only fitting that, having gone about things backward to help his boss, Sessions' excuse represented a complete reversal of Trump team arguments so far: That Comey mishandled Hillary Clinton's email investigation. For the record, the Trump campaign—including then-Sen. Sessions—praised Comey's actions in real time last year.

Trump's crude self-dealing, outsize ego and willingness to wield state power against individuals were hardly secrets during the presidential campaign. Any politician who criticized executive-branch abuse under President Obama (and preferably President George W. Bush as well), should understand instinctively that this norm-breaking president requires more, not less, prophylactic restraint in the form of independent institutions and personnel.

Valuing such protections does not require any belief in Russia-conspiracy Twitter threads. To the contrary: Those who believe there's no fire under the Russian smoke should want an unimpeachable, nonpartisan source to discover and publicize that conclusion.

Paul, Cruz and Lee (who also supported Comey's sacking) are arguably the Senate's three most eloquent voices declaiming the legislative branch's constitutional abdication in making war, surveillance policy and even budgets. They are right about this, and they were right in demanding more investigative independence in the Obama administration. Here's hoping they extend the discourtesy to Trump.

IT&E statement on COO resignation

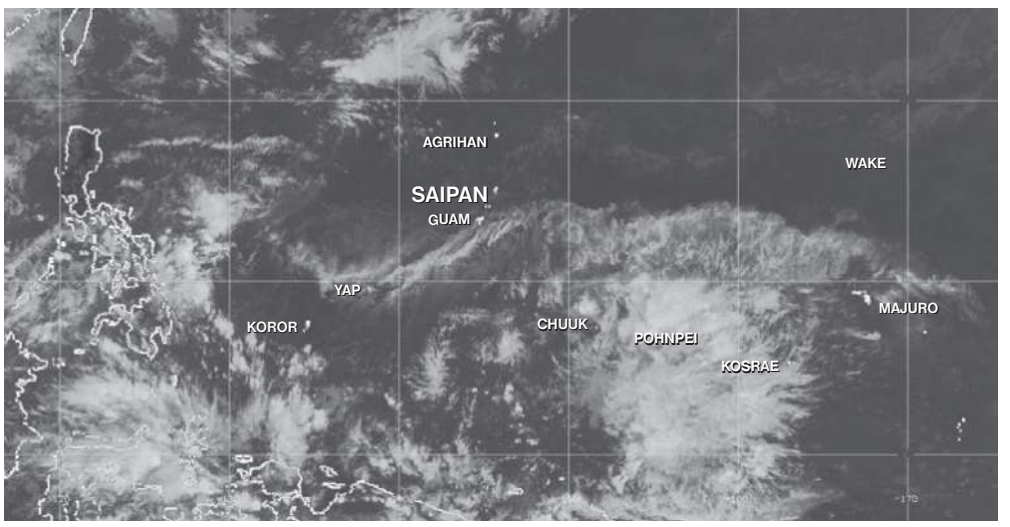
It is unfortunate that our former IT&E chief operating officer John Compton has chosen to resign from the company after his years of service but at this time all information regarding his resignation will be handled and discussed in the proper venue as the legal process takes it course. IT&E remains committed to the CNMI as an equal opportunity employer with a longstanding tradition of support and development and reaffirms its dedication to the continuous innovation of telecommunication services.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
A few passing clouds, otherwise generally sunny.	Sunshine along with some cloudy intervals.	A few passing clouds, otherwise generally sunny.	Sun and a few passing clouds.	Partly cloudy in the morning. Increasing clouds with periods of showers later in the day.
▲86° ▼80°	▲87° ▼80°	▲87° ▼79°	▲86° ▼79°	▲86° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:05 AM, MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A dry season weather pattern has returned to the Marianas and expect only isolated showers to prevail through the week at best. Models suggest that there may be a brief period of mostly cloudy skies on Wednesday. Trade-wind convergence is predicted to produce an increase in showers mid-week south of the Marianas. Do not expect scattered showers over the local area but clouds may increase. Have not changed forecast to reflect the mostly cloudy until confidence increases. Observations this morning from Ritidian, Tanapag, and Ipan buoys indicate combined sea heights around 4 to 6 feet. An east trade-wind swell of 4 to 6 feet will persist through Tuesday night and generate surf of 6 to 8 feet on east facing reefs. The surf on all other exposures will be 3 feet or less. Combined seas and the east swell is predicted to increase by a foot or two Wednesday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	87 | 80 °F
Palau	Partly cloudy	86 | 78 °F
Yap	Rain	88 | 72 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85 | 81 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 | 80 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87 | 81 °F
Majuro	Partly cloudy	86 | 81 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	63 | 60 °F
Beijing	Mostly cloudy	85 | 65 °F
Hong Kong	Rain	81 | 73 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	83 | 71 °F
London	Rain	71 | 57 °F
Los Angeles	Partly cloudy	68 | 57 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	89 | 79 °F
Melbourne	Cloudy	64 | 51 °F
Miami	Cloudy	86 | 76 °F
New York	Sunny	79 | 60 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	72 | 57 °F
Paris	Partly cloudy	80 | 59 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	75 | 51 °F
Rome	Mostly Sunny	83 | 58 °F
Salem	Partly cloudy	55 | 46 °F
San Francisco	Cloudy	61 | 51 °F
Seoul	Sunny	73 | 51 °F
Tokyo	Cloudy	71 | 59 °F
Washington, DC	Sunny	81 | 63 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:30 AM	LOW TIDE	1.18
9:54 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.62
5:19 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.02
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:38 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:48 AM	10:56 PM
Wednesday	-	10:38 AM	11:42 PM
Thursday	-	11:29 AM	-
Friday	12:26 AM	12:21 PM	-
Saturday	1:10 AM	1:13 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Joeten Motors offers car as TOC hole-in-one prize

Organizers of the Governor's Tournament of Champions have just announced that Joeten Motors is offering a brand new 2017 Honda Civic hatchback as a hole-in-one prize for the 22nd Governor's Tournament of Champions, which will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 27, and 28, 2017.

"Joeten Motors' 2017 Honda Civic hole-in-one prize raises the anticipation and excitement for this year's Tournament of Champions," said Ben Babauta, tournament director. "We are extremely thankful for the company's donation and for its longstanding commitment to the tournament."

"Joeten Motors has always been an enthusiastic supporter of the Tournament of Champions and the benefits it provides to the community," said Matt Deets, Joeten Motors general manager. "We wish all the players luck at this year's tournament."

Joeten Motors is offering the 2017 Honda Civic hatchback as ac hole-in-one prize for the upcoming Governor's Tournament of Champions that will be held on May 27 and 28, 2017. From left, Elizabeth Tenorio and Peter Tenorio of Joeten Motors; Ben Babauta, TOC tournament director; Matt Deets, Joeten Motors general manager; and TOC committee members Marida Pensader, Surina Reyes, and Marie Sablan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 22nd Governor's Tournament of Champions will be played at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east and west courses on May 27 and 28. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever, with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $200.

Winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Super Senior flights will each receive $500, $400, $300, a digital camera, and $100 DFS gift certificate for the first to fifth place, respectively. The Ladies Low Gross winners will receive $500, $400, and $300 for first to third place, respectively. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will each receive a trophy.

Prizes worth hundreds of thousands of dollars will be at stake in the two-day tournament.

Since its inception, TOC has turned over more than $800,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has gone directly to improvements like the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the Kensington Hotel, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, the Governor's TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Road Pathway, and the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2017 TOC, contact Babauta at 483-2563. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. ***(PR)***

HYATT BENEFICIARIES

Tyrell Pauling from the Hyatt Regency Saipan closes the golf classic beneficiary awarding ceremony last week Wednesday at the Giovanni's. The money, presented to six beneficiaries, was raised from the Hyatt Golf Classic.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Hyatt Regency Saipan employees pose with Karidat executive director Lauri Ogumoro and a Karidat representative at the beneficiary awarding last Wednesday.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Hyatt Regency Saipan officials and employees led by Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa pose with Rose Smith of the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation and the ministry's staff at the beneficiary awarding last Wednesday.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Hyatt Regency Saipan officials and employees led by Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa pose with Marianas Behavioral Health International office manager Doreen Kintol and an MBHI representative at the beneficiary awarding last Wednesday.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Hyatt Regency Saipan officials and employees led by Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa pose with the Northern Marianas Humanities Council vice chair Brady Hammond and the council's staff members at the beneficiary awarding last Wednesday.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Hyatt Regency Saipan officials and employees led by Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa pose with Make-A-Wish board members Kanae Quinn and Eleanor Cabrera at the beneficiary awarding last Wednesday.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Leadership Corps Drill Competition

Board of Education Rota representative and retired sergeant major Herman Atalig thanks the JROTC members from Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, and Kagman High School for their participation in the first ever middle school leadership corps drill competition last Saturday at Hopwood Middle School.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Hopwood Middle School cadets perform their drill exercises for JROTC seniors, who also served as judges of the competition.

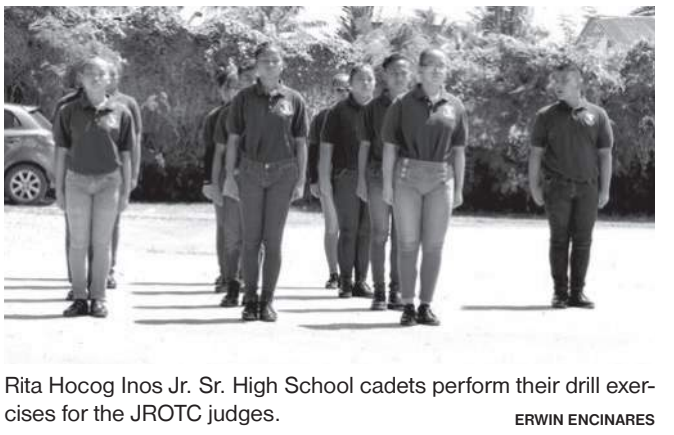
ERWIN ENCINARES

JROTC members with MHS senior Army instructor Ramon Ichihara meet to talk about their scores.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Cadets of the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School perform their drill exercises for the JROTC judges.

ERWIN ENCINARES

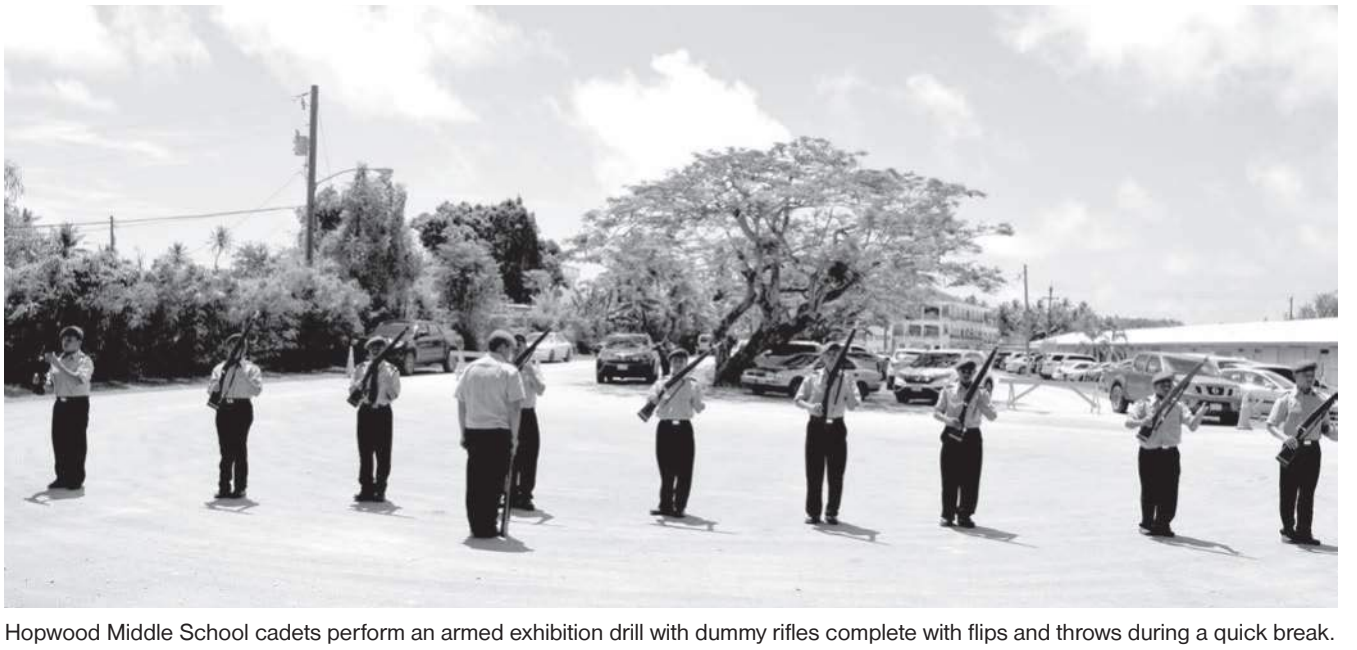


Rita Hocog Inos Jr. Sr. High School cadets perform their drill exercises for the JROTC judges.

ERWIN ENCINARES

The youngest of the contestants, 6th grade cadets from the Tanapag Middle School, during the competition.

ERWIN ENCINARES



Hopwood Middle School cadets perform an armed exhibition drill with dummy rifles complete with flips and throws during a quick break.

ERWIN ENCINARES

The color guard from Hopwood Middle School performs their drill exercises.

ERWIN ENCINARES

The color guard of Rita Hocog Inos Jr. Sr. High School performs their drill exercises.

ERWIN ENCINARES

The Tinian Jr. Sr. High School color guard performs their drill exercises.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Business

Log in, look out: Cyber chaos may grow at workweek's start

AP
In this May 13, 2017 file photo, a screenshot of the warning screen from a purported ransomware attack, as captured by a computer user in Taiwan, is seen on laptop in Beijing.

LONDON (AP)—Employees booting up computers at work Monday could see red as they discover they're victims of a global "ransomware" cyberattack that has created chaos in 150 countries and could wreak even greater havoc as more malicious variations appear.

As a loose global network of cybersecurity experts fought the ransomware hackers, officials and experts on Sunday urged organizations and companies to update older Microsoft operating systems immediately to ensure they aren't vulnerable to a more powerful version of the software—or to future versions that can't be stopped.

The initial attack, known as "WannaCry," paralyzed computers that run Britain's hospital network, Germany's national railway and scores of other companies and government agencies worldwide in what was believed to be the biggest online extortion scheme so far.

Microsoft blamed the U.S. government for "stockpiling" software code that was used by unknown hackers to launch the attacks. The hackers exploited software code from the National Security Agency that leaked online.

The company's top lawyer said the government should report weaknesses they discover to software companies rather than seek to exploit them.

"An equivalent scenario with conventional weapons would be the U.S. military having some of its Tomahawk missiles stolen," attorney Brad Smith wrote on Microsoft's blog.

New variants of the rapidly replicating worm were discovered Sunday and one did not include the so-called kill switch that allowed researchers to interrupt its spread Friday by diverting it to a dead end on the internet.

Ryan Kalember, senior vice president at Proofpoint Inc. which helped stop its spread, said the version without a kill switch was able to spread but was benign because it contained a flaw that wouldn't allow it to take over a computer and demand ransom to unlock files. However, he said it's only a matter of time before a malevolent version exists.

"I still expect another to pop up and be fully operational," Kalember said. "We haven't fully dodged this bullet at all until we're patched against the vulnerability itself."

The attack held users hostage by freezing their computers, popping up a red screen with the words, "Oops, your files have been encrypted!" and demanding money through online bitcoin payment—$300 at first, rising to $600 before it destroys files hours later.

The ransomware attack was particularly malicious, because if just one person in an organization clicked on an infected attachment or bad link, all the computers in a network would be infected, said Vikram Thakur, technical director of Symantec Security Response.

"That's what makes this more troubling than ransomware was a week ago," Thakur said.

It hit 200,000 victims across the world since Friday and is seen as an "escalating threat," said Rob Wainwright, the head of Europol, Europe's policing agency.

"The numbers are still going up," Wainwright said. "We've seen that the slowdown of the infection rate over Friday night, after a temporary fix around it, has now been overcome by a second variation the criminals have released."

The effects were felt around the globe, disrupting computers that run factories, banks, government agencies and transport systems in nations as diverse as Russia, Ukraine, Brazil, Spain, India and the U.S. Britain's National Health Service was hit hard, while Russia's Interior Ministry and companies including Spain's Telefonica, FedEx Corp. in the U.S. and French carmaker Renault all reported disruptions.

Chinese media reported Sunday that students at several universities were hit, blocking access to their thesis papers and dissertation presentations.

The full extent of the attack won't become fully clear until people return to their workplaces Monday, for the first time after the attacks. Many may click infected email attachments or bad links and spread the virus further.

"It's this constant battle," said Ryan O'Leary, vice president of WhiteHat Security's threat research center. "The bad guys are always one step ahead."

The White House held emergency meetings Friday and Saturday to assess the global cyber threat, a White House official said Sunday. No details were disclosed. The official was not authorized to discuss the private meetings by name and requested anonymity.

It was too early to say who was behind the onslaught, which struck 100,000 organizations, and what their motivation was, aside from the obvious demand for money. So far, not many people have paid the ransom demanded by the malware, Europol spokesman Jan Op Gen Oorth told The Associated Press.

Researchers who helped prevent the spread of the malware and cybersecurity firms worked around the clock during the weekend to monitor the situation and install a software patch to block the worm from infecting computers in corporations across the U.S., Europe and Asia.

"Right now, just about every IT department has been working all weekend rolling this out," said Dan Wire, spokesman at Fireeye Security.

Businesses, government agencies and other organizations were urged to quickly implement a patch released by Microsoft Corp. The ransomware exploits older versions of Microsoft's operating system software, such as Windows XP.

New office manager needs backing from the bosses

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

Q: I am finding it impossible to do my new job. I was recently hired as the office manager for a small law firm. Before I arrived, the four partners were responsible for running the office. They've had one paralegal more or less taking care of things, but there was no true structure or organization.

Although I'm trying to make improvements, the employees scrutinize and question every decision. For example, I told our file clerk to cover the front desk during the receptionist's lunch hour. She said she never had to do that before and then asked if she could just answer the phones from her cubicle.

Another problem is that the paralegal seems resentful and refuses to give up control. Whenever I create a new procedure, she just says the old way has worked fine for the past 11 years. How can I succeed under these circumstances?

A: When people are required to alter long-established habits, some resistance is to be expected. However, you may be making a difficult situation worse. By implementing changes without explanation and expecting employees to obey without comment, you are automatically generating opposition.

With the file clerk, for example, a better approach would be to explain the importance of front desk coverage, describe what you need her to do and then see if she has questions. Even if remote phone answering is not an option, there's nothing wrong with her asking about it.

I suspect, however, that these individual disagreements actually reflect a greater problem — that is, a lack of systematic change planning. The correct way to begin this office makeover would have been to thoroughly evaluate current operations, develop specific improvement goals and then get them approved by the partners.

Next, the partners could meet with the staff to review this plan and answer any questions. To lessen the shock for the paralegal, whose resentment at being dethroned is hardly surprising, they could talk with her separately and explain how her role is being redefined.

If the partners take ownership of this process and are seen as the driving force, you are less likely to be viewed as an interloper. So if the above steps have not yet been taken, perhaps it's time to back up and make a fresh start.

Q: I have some concerns about reference checks. Because my last position was eliminated, my reason for leaving should be described as a layoff. However, I don't know if this is what potential employers are being told. One of my management friends agreed to pose as an interviewer and call the company to see what they say about me. What do you think about this?

A: If you had a good work history and your departure was clearly due to a workforce reduction, then you probably have nothing to worry about. But if there were performance issues or disagreements with management, you might have cause for concern.

Having your friend call should certainly help to answer this question. Or you might consider employing a reputable reference checking service. However, considering that many companies share only factual information, like position title and dates of employment, you may discover that they aren't saying much at all.

Nation

What child would sexually assault another kid, and why?

By JUSTIN PRITCHARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands of elementary and secondary school students are disciplined or treated in the United States each year for sexual aggression. While sexual violence has made headlines on college campuses that scrutiny has not extended to adolescents and younger children.

WHAT KID WOULD SEXUALLY ASSAULT A PEER?

Offenders cannot be typecast. Therapists who have spent careers assessing thousands of children describe a tremendous diversity of personalities and personal circumstances. Offenders can be wealthy or poor, outgoing or reclusive, charismatic or awkward. They may attend schools in inner cities, outer suburbs or small towns. Most, though not all, are boys.

WAIT, IT COULD BE ANYONE?

There can be warning signs. Experts agree that a broader anti-social streak can suggest a higher risk of offending. Social isolation can be a clue, though popular kids who don't respect others' personal boundaries also can cause concern, especially if their social circle ties acceptance to sex. Fantasies about forceful sex elevate worries. Researchers are developing systems to assess who might offend again once caught. One approach is to use artificial intelligence. Early results suggest computer algorithms might identify risk patterns in detailed offender data that humans cannot discern, according to KiDeuk Kim, the researcher heading the project at the Washington-based Urban Institute think tank.

AP

This March 28, 2017 photo shows the Pexton Building, surrounded by barbed wire fencing, at the Minnesota Sex Offender Program in St. Peter, Minn. Around 700 men are undergoing treatment, about 10 percent of whom offended only as juveniles.

WILL KIDS JUST KEEP DOING IT?

Multiple academic studies have suggested that only about 5 percent of juveniles who are arrested on sex-related charges will be arrested again for a similar reason. Last summer, Michael Caldwell, a lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who has treated hundreds of juvenile offenders, reported that the re-arrest rate had fallen in recent years. There is no clear explanation why, though the overall violent crime has fallen, too.

WHY WOULD A STUDENT DO THIS?

Motivations depend on the person and situation. Because children are constantly developing, age is an important factor. A high school student might become forceful if a consensual encounter stops short of what he expected. Roiled by hormones, a middle schooler could seize a moment of unsupervised opportunity. Grade school students might be re-enacting harm someone else did to them, though experts say being sexually abused doesn't necessarily mean someone will become an abuser. At the same time, broader life instability appears to play a role. That could mean a violent home life, absentee parents or other problems.

DOES PORNOGRAPHY PLAY A ROLE?

The limited research is inconclusive. Some of the strongest evidence of a link came in a 2011 paper that surveyed more than 1,000 children between 10 and 15 years old. The study made an important distinction between kinds of pornography, noted its lead author, Michele Ybarra of the Center for Innovative Public Health Research. Children exposed to violent X-rated material were six times more likely to self-report that they had been sexually aggressive than children with no such exposure, the study concluded.

High court could soon signal view on Trump immigration plans

WASHINGTON (AP)—Supreme Court decisions in a half-dozen cases dealing with immigration over the next two months could reveal how the justices might evaluate Trump administration actions on immigration, especially stepped up deportations.

Some of those cases could be decided as early as Monday, when the court is meeting to issue opinions in cases that were argued over the past six months.

The outcomes could indicate whether the justices are retreating from long-standing decisions that give the president and Congress great discretion in dealing with immigration, and what role administration policies, including the proposed ban on visits to the United States by residents of six majority Muslim countries, may play.

President Donald Trump has pledged to increase deportations, particularly of people who have been convicted of crimes. But Supreme Court rulings in favor of the immigrants in the pending cases "could make his plans more difficult to realize," said Christopher Hajec, director of litigation for the Immigration Reform Litigation Institute. The group generally supports the new administration's immigration actions, including the travel ban.

For about a century, the court has held that, when dealing with immigration, the White House and Congress "can get away with things they ordinarily couldn't," said Temple University law professor Peter Spiro, an immigration law expert. "The court has explicitly said the Constitution applies differently in immigration than in other contexts."

Two of the immigration cases at the court offer the justices the possibility of cutting into the deference that courts have given the other branches of government in this area. One case is a class-action lawsuit brought by immigrants who've spent long periods in custody, including many who are legal residents of the United States or are seeking asylum. The court is weighing whether the detainees have a right to court hearings.

In the other case, the court has taken on a challenge to an unusual federal law that makes it easier for children born outside the United States to become citizens if their mother is an American and harder for them if their father is the U.S. citizen. Even after legislation in 1986, children of American fathers face higher hurdles claiming citizenship for themselves.

Both cases were argued before Trump became president in January, and the Obama administration opposed the detainees' claims and the citizenship challenge.

Even if the positions haven't changed, the context has, Spiro said.

"The court has got to be conscious of how these rulings are going to apply to Trump administration activity," Spiro said.

The decisions may directly affect people who are targeted by immigration authorities for quick deportation, or expedited removal, and immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and offered protection from deportation by the Obama administration, said Steven Vladeck, a University of Texas law professor.

"An open question in immigration law concerns how much authority the government has and how strong the Constitution is as a constraint," Vladeck said. For Trump, he said a major question is how much discretion the president has. "It's at the heart of a lot of what the Trump administration wants to do," Vladeck said.

Other cases involve discrete sections of the immigration law in which the decisions either will free or constrain immigration authorities from deporting people convicted of certain crimes.

ACROSS THE NATION

Sad Mother's Day for family of slain Ohio nurse's aide

KIRKERSVILLE, Ohio (AP)—The family of a 48-year-old mom of five children is in mourning this Mother's Day weekend, after her slaying at the Ohio nursing home where she was a nurse's aide. The Columbus Dispatch reports that Cindy Krantz is being remembered as a kind person who loved her kids. She, nurse Marlina Medrano, 46, and Kirkersville Police Chief Steven Eric DiSario, 36, were killed in the Friday attack. Suspect Thomas Hartless, 43, was found dead inside the nursing home in Kirkersville, a village of some 500 residents, about 25 miles (39 kilometers) east of Columbus. Authorities said Sunday they didn't immediately have any new information to release. They have said they are looking into the relationship between Hartless and Medrano, who had obtained civil protection orders against him in connection with domestic violence cases.

Torch-wielding group protests Confederate statue removal

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP)—A group that included a well-known white nationalist carried torches and chanted "you will not replace us" at a weekend protest in Virginia over plans to remove a monument of a Confederate general. The protesters on Saturday evening called on officials to halt the removal of a Gen. Robert E. Lee statue in Charlottesville and were swiftly condemned by the city's mayor, who said the event appeared to hearken "back to the days of the KKK," the Daily Progress newspaper reported. Among those at the protest were Richard Spencer, a while nationalist who popularized the phrase "alt-right" and is a leading figure in a fringe movement that has been described as a mix of racism, white nationalism and populism.

"We will not be replaced from this park," Spencer told the crowd at a different rally held hours earlier in Charlottesville on Saturday. "We will not be replaced from this world. Whites have a future. We have a future of power, of beauty, of expression," he said. Spencer, an outspoken supporter of President Donald Trump, hosted a postelection conference in the nation's capital last November that ended with audience members mimicking Nazi salutes after Spencer shouted, "Hail Trump, hail our people, hail victory!" Spencer also has advocated for an "ethno-state" that would be a "safe space" for white people.

Asia

N. Korea: New long-range missile can carry heavy nuke

AP
In this April 15, 2017 file photo, North Korea's Hwasong-10 missile is paraded across Kim Il Sung Square during a military parade in Pyongyang.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Monday the missile it launched over the weekend was a new type of "medium long-range" ballistic rocket that can carry a heavy nuclear warhead. A jubilant leader Kim Jong Un promised more nuclear and missile tests and warned that North Korean weapons could strike the U.S. mainland and Pacific holdings.

North Korean propaganda must be considered with wariness—Pyongyang has threatened for decades to reduce Seoul to a "sea of fire," for instance—but Monday's claim, if confirmed, would mark another big advance toward the North's goal of fielding a nuclear-tipped missile capable of reaching the U.S. mainland. Some experts, including officials in Tokyo, estimate that Sunday's launch successfully tested a new type of missile in Pyongyang's arsenal.

The test is also an immediate challenge to South Korea's new leader, Moon Jae-in, a liberal elected last week who expressed a desire to reach out to North Korea. Pyongyang's aggressive push to boost its weapons program also makes it one of the Trump administration's most urgent foreign policy worries, though Washington has struggled to settle on a policy.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency called the missile a "new ground-to-ground medium long-range strategic ballistic rocket," and said the "Hwasong-12" was "capable of carrying a large, heavy nuclear warhead." Kim Jong Un witnessed the test and "hugged officials in the field of rocket research, saying that they worked hard to achieve a great thing," according to KCNA.

The rocket, "newly designed in a Korean-style," flew 787 kilometers (490 miles) and reached a maximum altitude of 2,111.5 kilometers (1,310 miles), the North said, and "verified the homing feature of the warhead under the worst re-entry situation and accurate performance of detonation system."

South Korea's Defense Ministry said more analysis is needed to verify the North's claim on the rocket's technological features. Spokesman Moon Sang Gyun said it's still unlikely that North Korea has re-entry technology, which would return a warhead safely back into the atmosphere.

Japanese officials said Sunday the missile flew for half an hour and reached an unusually high altitude before landing in the Sea of Japan.

North Korea is not thought to be able yet to make a nuclear warhead small enough to mount on a long-range missile, though some outside analysts think they can arm shorter range missiles with warheads; each new nuclear and longer-range missile test is part of the North's attempt to build a nuclear-tipped long-range missile.

Kim said the North would stage more nuclear and missile tests in order to perfect nuclear bombs needed to deal with U.S. "nuclear blackmail."

State media paraphrased Kim as saying that "the most perfect weapon systems in the world will never become the eternal exclusive property of the U.S., ... strongly warning the U.S. should not ... disregard or misjudge the reality that its mainland and Pacific operation region are in (North Korea's) sighting range for strike."

The launch complicates the new South Korean president's plan to talk to the North, and came as U.S., Japanese and European navies gather for joint war games in the Pacific.

"The president expressed deep regret over the fact that this reckless provocation ... occurred just days after a new government was launched in South Korea," senior presidential secretary Yoon Young-chan said. "The president said we are leaving open the possibility of dialogue with North Korea, but we should sternly deal with a provocation to prevent North Korea from miscalculating."

Moon, South Korea's first liberal leader in nearly a decade, said as he took his oath of office last week that he'd be willing to visit the North if the circumstances were right.

The U.N. Security Council will hold closed consultations about the launch on Tuesday afternoon, according to the U.N. Mission for Uruguay, which holds the council presidency this month.

U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley said on ABC television that the United States has been working well with China, Pyongyang's closest ally, and she raised the possibility of new sanctions against North Korea, including on oil imports.

The Security Council has adopted six increasingly tougher sanctions resolutions against North Korea.

President Donald Trump's administration has called North Korean ballistic and nuclear efforts unacceptable, but it has swung between threats of military action and offers to talk as it formulates a policy.

While Trump has said he'd be "honored" to talk with leader Kim Jong Un under favorable conditions, Haley seemed to rule out the possibility. "Having a missile test is not the way to sit down with the president, because he's absolutely not going to do it," she told ABC.

The U.S. Pacific Command said the flight of Sunday's test "is not consistent with an intercontinental ballistic missile," a technology the North is believed to have tested clandestinely by launching rockets to put satellites in orbit.

David Wright, co-director of the Global Security Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, said the missile could have a range of 4,500 kilometers (about 2,800 miles) if flown on a standard, instead of a lofted, trajectory—considerably longer than Pyongyang's current missiles. He said Sunday's launch—the seventh such firing by North Korea this year—may have been of a new mobile, two-stage liquid-fueled missile North Korea displayed in a huge April 15 military parade.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters that the launch was "absolutely unacceptable" and that Japan would respond resolutely.

The White House took note of the missile landing close to Russia's Pacific coast and said in a statement that North Korea has been "a flagrant menace for far too long."

Italian Premier Paolo Gentiloni said the G-7 summit his country is hosting later this month would discuss how to deal with the risk North Korea's missile launchings pose to global security.

"It's a serious problem for global stability and security, and I'm convinced that the upcoming G-7, in friendship, will contribute to resolving this issue," he said in Beijing.

The launch came as troops from the U.S., Japan and two European nations gather near Guam for drills that are partly a message to North Korea. The USS Carl Vinson, an aircraft supercarrier, is also engaging with South Korean navy ships in waters off the Korean Peninsula, according to Seoul's Defense Ministry.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Malaysia seizes 330 exotic tortoises from Madagascar

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian authorities said Monday that they have seized 330 exotic tortoises from Madagascar worth 1.2 million ringgit ($276,721), in the latest heist of illegal wildlife and animal parts being smuggled into the country. Deputy customs director Abdull Wahid Sulong said that 325 Indian Star tortoises and five Ploughshare tortoises were packed into five boxes and labeled as stones. He said the live tortoises, usually kept as pets, arrived via Etihad Airways from Antanaviro Airport in Madagascar on Sunday. Customs officials found the boxes at the Kuala Lumpur airport cargo warehouse on the same day based on a tip, Abdull Wahid said. The import of exotic tortoises requires a special permit from Malaysia's Wildlife Department. No arrests were made and the case is still under investigation, Abdull Wahid said. Two weeks ago, airport customs officials seized African pangolin scales worth $2.1 million at the airport cargo warehouse. Last month, they confiscated 18 rhino horns worth $3.1 million believed to have been flown in from Mozambique and declared as art objects.

Afghan official: Roadside bomb kills 4 in eastern province

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says at least four people were killed when a police vehicle hit a roadside bomb in eastern Paktia province. Abdullah Hsrat, spokesman for the provincial governor, says two border police officers and two civilians were killed in the attack, which took place in Zazi Aryub district on Sunday night. He says the explosion also wounded two other policemen. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing but the Taliban have stepped up their attacks against the Afghan security forces across the country. Separately, Hsart says a dispute between two rival Taliban commanders in the same province set off clashes over the weekend that left at least five insurgents dead.

China's Xi appeals to foreign leaders for freer trade

BEIJING (AP)—President Xi Jinping has appealed to foreign leaders at a forum on a Chinese trade initiative to resist pressure to close markets. Xi called on Monday for governments to pursue "greater openness and cooperation" and "reject protectionism." He was speaking to leaders and other officials from Asia, Europe and Africa at the event to promote Beijing's "Belt and Road Initiative." China is promoting itself as a champion of free trade in response to pressure in the United States and Europe for restrictions on imports. That is despite complaints by its trading partners that China is the most-closed major economy. The Chinese initiative calls for building ports, railways and other facilities to expand trade across Asia, Africa and Europe.

World

France's new president vows to fortify EU, revamp politics

AP
French President Emmanuel Macron and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, left, applaud during a ceremony at the Hotel de Ville in Paris, France, Sunday, May 14, 2017.

PARIS (AP)—In ceremonies marked by youthful optimism and old-world Napoleonic pomp, Emmanuel Macron swept into office Sunday as France's new president pledging to fortify the European Union, redesign French politics and glue together his divided nation.

Macron's presidency began with a visit to troops wounded in overseas combat—a reminder of France's large global military presence and role in fighting extremists from Syria to Africa.

He's expected to name a prime minister imminently, and to show his commitment to reviving European unity. Macron takes his first presidential trip Monday to Berlin to meet Chancellor Angela Merkel.

In a lofty but lucid inaugural speech, Macron vowed to lift France out of its sense of decline and lost purpose, and seize again its place in the world.

"The time has come for France to rise up to the occasion. The division and fractures across our society must be overcome ... because the world expects us to be strong, solid, clairvoyant."

He promised to take France's responsibilities to tackle today's crises—"the migration crisis, the climate challenge, authoritarian abuse, the excesses of capitalism in the world and of course terrorism. Nothing now strikes one and spares the other. We are all Interdependent. We are all neighbors."

The 39-year-old Macron is the youngest president in the country's history and the eighth president of France's Fifth Republic, which was created in 1958. A former economy minister with pro-business, pro-European views, Macron is the first French president who doesn't originate from the country's two mainstream parties.

After Macron was formally declared president at the Elysee Palace, 21 cannon shots were fired from across the Seine River at the Invalides monument, where Napoleon is entombed.

Macron later solemnly paid tribute at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier beneath the Arc de Triomphe, greeting veterans and military officers in formation beneath the imposing arch.

Macron takes charge of a nation that, when Britain leaves the European Union in 2019, will become the EU's only member with nuclear weapons and a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

Reviving support for European unity will be among his top priorities. France is a founding member of the 28-nation EU and its third-largest economy after Germany and Britain.

"We will need a more efficient Europe, a more democratic Europe, a more political Europe because it's the instrument of our power and our sovereignty, I will work on that," he said Sunday.

Before the ceremony, he met for an hour with his predecessor, Francois Hollande, taking a last few minutes to discuss the most sensitive issues facing France, including the country's nuclear codes.

In a visibly moving moment for both, Macron accompanied Hollande to his car, shaking hands and applauding him along with the employees of the French presidency who had gathered in the palace's courtyard.

The two men had known each other well. Macron was Hollande's former adviser, then his economy minister from 2014 to 2016, when Macron quit the Socialist government to launch his own independent presidential bid.

About 300 guests, officials and family members gathered in the Elysee reception hall, including Macron's wife, Brigitte, wearing a lavender blue dress by French designer Nicolas Ghesquiere for Louis Vuitton.

Macron himself wore a dark suit from French brand Jonas and Cie, a tailor based in Paris. It cost 450 euros ($491), according to his team.

The new president arrived on the Champs-Elysees Avenue under a heavy rain—recalling Hollande's inauguration five years ago. But unlike his predecessor, Macron managed to avoid getting wet. The bad weather often associated with the former Socialist president has become a joke for the French.

After his time at the tomb, Macron went to shake hands with supporters along the Champs-Elysees, who were taking selfies and waving French tricolor flags, before coming back to the palace for a lunch with his family.

Earlier, he and France's new first lady briefly posed for photographers at the front porch of the palace after Hollande left. The couple will now live at the Elysee Palace.

Evacuations of rebels from last Damascus stronghold begins

BEIRUT (AP)—Hundreds of rebels and their families began leaving a northeastern neighborhood of Damascus and heading toward rebel-held areas in northern Syria Sunday, in another step that would eventually bring all parts of the capital under the control of President Bashar Assad's forces, state media and opposition activists said.

The evacuations from Qaboun came a day after government forces and their allies captured most of the area from insurgents who had maintained a presence in the northeastern neighborhood for four years. The departures from Qaboun come days after hundreds of opposition fighters were evacuated from the nearby neighborhoods of Barzeh and Tishrin.

After government forces took control of Barzeh and Tishrin last week and with the expected capture of Qaboun in the coming hours or days, the capital Damascus will be fully clear of rebels for the first time since 2012. The eastern neighborhood of Jobar will be left in rebel hands but is considered an extension of the eastern suburbs of Damascus known as eastern Ghouta.

Government forces have been on the offensive for months in an attempt to capture the remaining rebel-held Damascus neighborhoods. The troops succeeded after destroying many underground tunnels that linked the northeastern neighborhoods with eastern Ghouta.

"It is a big propaganda victory for the regime," said Anas al-Dimashqi, an opposition activist based in the eastern Damascus suburb of Kfar Batna. He added that although the government's offensive began several months ago, it was clear that the neighborhoods would fall because they came under siege several weeks ago and were pounded with airstrikes and surface-to-surface missiles.

These gains add to recent victories by Assad's forces that captured in December all rebel-held parts of the northern city of Aleppo, Syria's largest city and once commercial center. In the central city of Homs, thousands of opposition fighters have been evacuated from al-Waer neighborhood, the last rebel-held area in Syria's largest city that within weeks will be under full control of Assad's forces.

The government also controls Syria's fourth largest city of Hama, in the center of the country, as well as the coastal region. Syrian government forces and their allies have captured wide areas from insurgents since Sept. 2015 when Russia joined the war and provided Assad's troops with air cover.

Syrian state TV said some 2,200 people from the Damascus neighborhoods boarded several buses Sunday and left toward the northwestern province of Idlib. State news agency SANA said those who decide to stay could benefit from a government amnesty and return to normal life.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said some 2,300 people, including about 1,100 fighters, have left Qaboun adding that more buses are being sent to the area "to empty" the neighborhood from opposition fighters on Sunday.

Thousands march against Moscow govt's demolition plans

MOSCOW (AP)—Thousands of protesters took to the streets of Moscow on Sunday to rally against a bill to tear down Soviet-era low-rise apartment buildings.

Protesters, mostly young and middle-aged couples, gathered on a central street to rally against arguably Russia's largest redevelopment project to pull down entire neighborhoods of Soviet-era prefabricated blocks that were built under and named for former leader Nikita Khrushchev.

City Hall has insisted the buildings, known as "khrushchevki", are too dilapidated and outdated, while many residents and activists see the plans as a ruse to make way for high-rises in some of Moscow's leafiest neighborhoods.

The State Duma rushed to pass the first reading of a bill on the demolition in Moscow last month which will force the residents in what City Hall says are dilapidated blocks to vacate their apartments in exchange for other housing. Faced with growing criticism, the parliamentary speaker, however, suggested postponing the second reading pending a public debate.

Carrying placards "No to the demolition of the constitution!" and the flags of their neighborhoods, Muscovites chanted "Resign!" in reference to Moscow's mayor and City Hall. Police estimated turnout at Sunday's rally as low as 5,000 people while volunteers of the White Counter group, which attends opposition rallies to provide independent crowd tallies, said just over 20,000 people showed up.

Alexei Matveyev, a 36-year-old bank clerk from a north Moscow neighborhood, carried a placard reading "No to violation of the constitution and property law." He said the bill under discussion is rushed and disregards residents' interests.

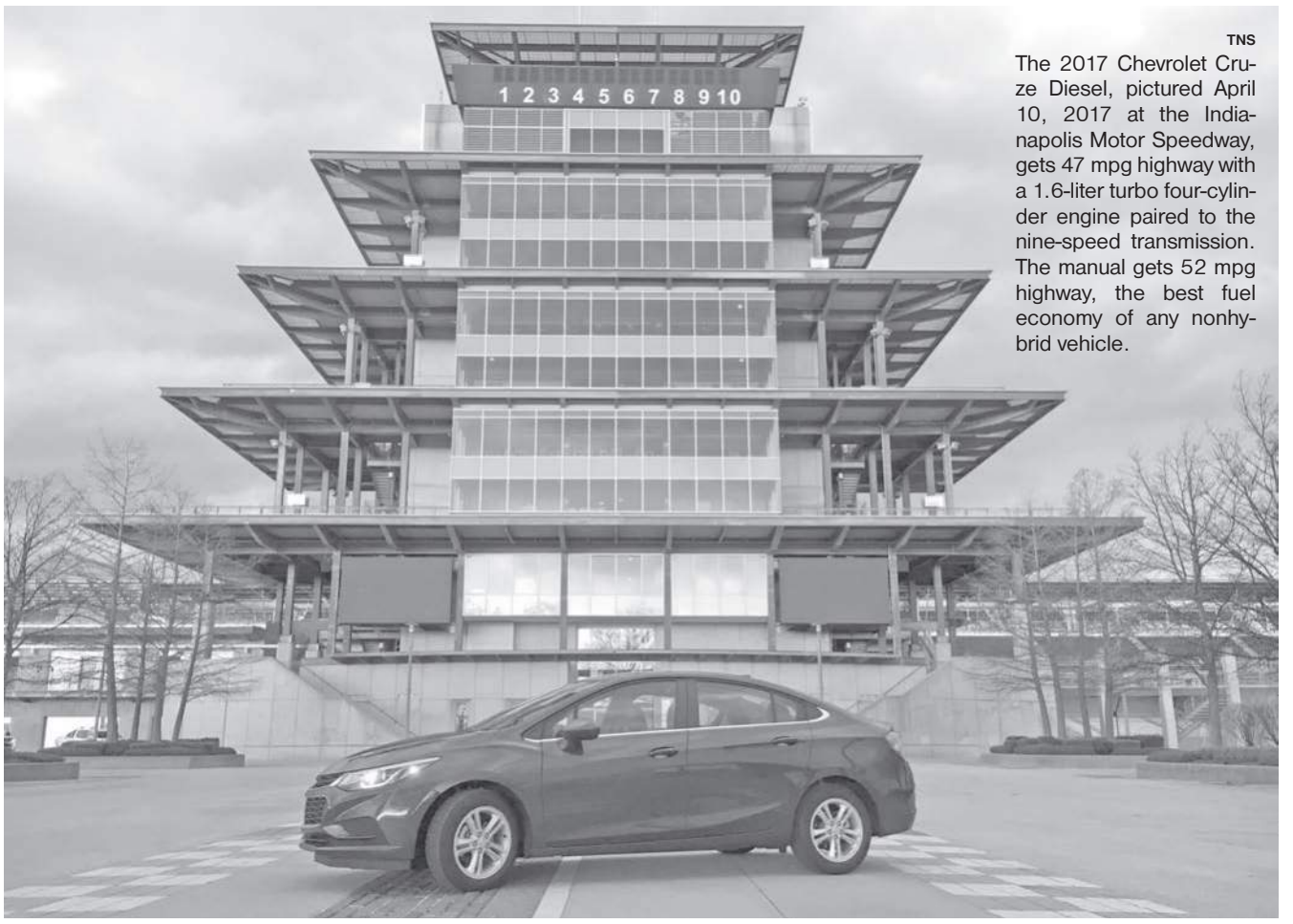
"People who live in these blocks bought the apartments in order to live in quiet leafy low-rises," Matveyev said. "We are happy in our house. We don't want to live in tower blocks."

Alexander Zeinin, 32, and his wife Natalya bought an apartment in Perovo, in the city's east, several years ago to start a family but now their building is slated for demolition.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: 2017 Chevy Cruze Diesel sets high mark for highway mpg

By ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE



TNS
The 2017 Chevrolet Cruze Diesel, pictured April 10, 2017 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, gets 47 mpg highway with a 1.6-liter turbo four-cylinder engine paired to the nine-speed transmission. The manual gets 52 mpg highway, the best fuel economy of any nonhybrid vehicle.

On either side of the highway, crops were beginning to sprout. The flat, boundless plains of the Midwest can be fertile ground for crops as well as beauty — in certain seasons, at certain times. This was not one of those times. This trip to Indianapolis was plain boring, except for the fuel economy gauge. With the cruise control of the 2017 Chevy Cruze diesel set to the safer side of 80 mph, the mpg topped 46. If we were hitting that optimal fuel economy spot of just under 50 mph, we might've averaged 50 mpg.

But this was Indiana and we had to get out.

Aside from the fuel economy, the 1.6-liter turbo diesel engine was unnoticeable on the highway. The thrum of road noise and spasms of wind, as well as the recurring scenery, kept the cockpit of the Cruze compact sedan as insulated as slumber. At idle, the engine noise was as noticeable as a quiet companion, but it's a great trade-off for 240 pound-feet of torque. The only time we considered the diesel is when we passed the gas station — two cents less than gas; no need to fill up — we were only 200 miles into our drive, and had about two-thirds of a tank left.

The diesel was winning on all the fuel metrics. There may be no better car for the highway commuter concerned about fuel economy than the 2017 Chevy Cruze diesel. While the Cruze with the six-speed manual gets 52 mpg on the highway, better than any nonhybrid or plug-in, our model with the smart, smooth-shifting nine-speed transmission gets an EPA-estimated 47 mpg highway. Gas prices will rise, and the Cruze diesel will look even better.

We can't talk diesel without bringing up the dirty elephant in the room: Volkswagen. Once VW was uncovered for cheating emissions tests and consumers by spewing illegal amounts of pollutants, many pundits forecast the end of diesel's brief surge in the U.S. Instead, General Motors is doubling down on diesels in the Cruze, 2018 Cruze hatch, Chevy Equinox and GMC Terrain compact crossovers — not just to woo disgruntled VW TDI owners, but to appeal to a small but loyal class of car buyer that prefers the greater torque and economy of diesel engines.

Diesel engines are more efficient than gas engines in part because diesel fuel has more energy and the engines have greater compression ratios. All this means is more bang for the buck of every pump of the piston. On the other hand, diesel fuel can cost more in the winter, though it is typically more constant than gas, and cars with diesel engines can cost anywhere from $1,000 to $6,000 more than a gas counterpart.

The Cruze diesel is about $2,500 more than a similarly equipped gas model. That extra coin gets you the second-best trim level Chevy offers, along with heated front seats with leather trim, remote start and other goodies. The Cruze diesel also has the nine-speed automatic transmission which isn't available with the gas engine.

The Cruze is generally better-equipped than the competition at comparable trim levels, but the tester's near-$29,000 tag erodes some of the fuel-efficient charm. You can't get the diesel for under $25,000, no matter how you package it.

The Cruze sedan doesn't stand out much on the outside. It looks like a normal car with basic proportions favored by folks who doodle in the margins of grade-school notebooks. That's not a bad thing, especially with the modern trend of expanding grilles into gaping catfish faces, or adding aesthetic flourishes with no function (Civic Hatch).

The normalcy carries over inside, where it becomes a subtle-but-defining positive. The use of space isn't as expansive as the class-defining Honda Civic, but the controls are conveniently placed and logically arranged. The 8-inch touch screen with MyLink is one of the better systems on the market, largely because the redundant steering controls mean you don't really need to use the touch screen. The icons are large, there are volume and tuning knobs, and climate control buttons. Chevy is doing away with native navigation in all but the Premier trim, instead opting for Apple CarPlay or Android Auto, which is far better than any automaker system. The only downside is the phone has to remain plugged in. The $1,125 leather package, which includes a heated and leather-wrapped steering wheel, makes it feel much more refined than the usual compact as budget car standard.

The other competitive advantage that has fueled Chevy's resurrection as a maker of good cars is the advanced safety technology bundled under the "driver confidence" package. Rear park assist, cross traffic alert and blind zone alert are effective without being intrusive. My favorite feature in this package is the multicolor driver display in the instrument cluster. It's a clear drop-down menu between the gauges that lets you access just about everything offered in the touch screen without needing to take your hands off the wheel or eyes off the road for more than half a second. And it's actually useful, instead of the technology-for-technology's sake that is popping up in more and more cars.

The cost of ownership calculations of buying a diesel depend on many things, but if you're planning on owning such a car for more than five years and plan on logging tons of highway miles, you can put those calculations to rest and consider the scenery.

NUTS & BOLTS

- 2017 Chevy Cruze Diesel at a glance
- Vehicle type: Compact sedan
- Base price: $25,395
- As tested: $28,780 (excluding $875 destination)
- MPG: 31 city, 47 highway
- Engine: 1.6-liter turbocharged four-cylinder
- Transmission: Nine-speed automatic
- Parting shot: Ideal highway commuter car.

MOTORMOUTH: Swapping spare tires between makes, years probably won't work

By BOB WEBER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Q: Would a doughnut spare tire from a 1997 Pontiac Sunfire work on a 2014 Hyundai Elantra? Is there a standard size doughnut that works on most cars or does the size of the doughnut need to change as the year/make/model of the cars change?

— P.S., Calumet City, Ill.

A: It is not as much about the size of the tire, but the dimensions of the rim. Different cars have various lug bolt hole dimensions. Some cars have five holes, some have four; the distance between holes varies, and so on. The diameter of the wheels varies. In other words, it probably won't work.

Q: Since I retired, I don't drive my car as much. What precautions should I take? Should I add Sta-Bil to the gas? Anything else? I drive about 25 miles per week. I get a tank of gas about every three months. My next 5,000-mile oil change is due in about four years.

— S.D., Minneapolis

A: Adding a fuel stabilizer may be beneficial. Like a tonic, it certainly won't hurt. Don't wait five years to change your oil. Change it annually at the very least. Short trips are rough on oil.

Q: At a recent oil change, my dealership performed a complete brake system fluid exchange that cost me an additional $129. I have 46,000 miles on my SUV. Was this necessary? How long could this have gone?

— T.C., Bridgeview, Ill.

A: The Society of Automotive Engineers suggests changing the brake fluid every three or four years. We prefer to change it based on analysis of the amount of copper found in the fluid. The higher the copper content, the more worn-out the fluid. Professional technicians use special test strips to make the determination.

Q: I suspect I am a victim of premature battery failure. I drive a 2014 Honda CR-V on which the battery failed when it was 33 months old. I drive mainly short trips and the car had 18,000 miles on it when the battery failed. My question is, how can I know if the battery is fully charged and what can I do if it is not?

— R.C., Chicago

A: If you own a voltmeter, you can measure the voltage at the battery posts. (Do not measure at the battery clamps.) Fully charged, it should read 12.5 volts. Anything less means less than fully charged. Anything below 11.8 volts indicates less than 25 percent charged. To keep your battery fully charged, especially during extended storage, use a battery maintainer — a device that keeps the battery charged yet prevents overcharging. Battery Tender is a popular brand, but any device that has a float mode will work.

Q: I have a 2015Honda Accord and I changed the oil religiously every 5,000 miles, although the car catalog stated that it should be done every 7,500 miles. I had a problem on the Pennsylvania Turnpike and it had to be towed to the dealer. It was something to do with the universal joint. The dealer told me that the incident was caused because I did not change the oil every 3,750 miles and therefore, the warranty was not applicable. Is that possible? My total bill was $113 and for that amount I did not want to involve an attorney.

— L.P., Allentown, Pa.

A: Universal joints are not lubricated by the engine oil. The joints have grease in them to keep them lubed. No, it is not possible.

Life & Style

Government scientist from DC wins Miss USA title

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Kara McCullough, a scientist working for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, has been crowned Miss USA.

McCullough, who represented the District of Columbia in the decades-old pageant, was born in Naples, Italy, and raised in Virginia Beach, Virginia. She said she wants to inspire children to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"I love science," McCullough said after the Sunday event. "I look at this as a great opportunity to ... get to experience worldwide culture, as well as just having the opportunity to be impacted by so many children, hopefully in the math and sciences."

McCullough bested 50 other contestants and will represent the U.S. at the Miss Universe contest.

This was the second year in a row that the representative of the nation's capital won the Miss USA title. Last year, District of Columbia resident Deshauna Barber became the first-ever military member to win Miss USA.

Miss District of Columbia USA Kara McCullough reacts after she was crowned the new Miss USA during the Miss USA contest Sunday, May 14, 2017, in Las Vegas. AP

This year's top five finalists were asked questions that touched on the pros and cons of social media, women's rights and issues affecting teenagers. McCullough was asked whether she thinks that affordable health care for all U.S. citizens is a right or a privilege. She said it is a privilege.

"As a government employee, I'm granted health care and I see firsthand that for one to have health care, you need to have jobs."

McCullough said she will be discussing with her supervisor whether she will take a leave of absence from her job at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission during her one-year reign.

Miss New Jersey Chhavi Verg, who studies marketing and Spanish at Rutgers University, was the runner-up at the event held at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center on the Las Vegas Strip.

Verg was one of five women who participated in the pageant who told The Associated Press they immigrated to the U.S. with their families at a young age. Verg and the women representing Florida, North Dakota, Hawaii and Connecticut described the challenges and opportunities they faced as immigrants.

Verg told The AP that she and her parents immigrated from India to the U.S. with only $500 in their pockets when she was 4 years old. Her first winter she did not have a winter coat and the family struggled to adjust.

"I want to show Americans that the definition of what it means to be American is changing," the 20-year-old said. "It's not just one face. There are many different people who are Americans, and I feel like Asian-Americans often times are left out of the conversation."

The contestants' remarks contrast with the controversy that surrounded the pageant in 2015, when then-part owner and now U.S. President Donald Trump offended Hispanics when he made anti-immigrant remarks in announcing his bid for the White House.

Trump co-owned The Miss Universe Organization with NBCUniversal, but the network and the Spanish-language broadcaster Univision quickly cut ties with him, refusing to air the show. Trump sued both networks, eventually settling and selling the pageant to talent management company WME/IMG.

Eurovision winner greeted by ecstatic Portuguese nation

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—Eurovision winner Salvador Sobral was greeted as a national hero upon his return home to Portugal on Sunday, a day after winning the song contest in Ukraine's capital.

The 27-year-old Sobral was a virtual unknown before his triumph in Kiev, but around 2,000 jubilant fans cheered his arrival at Lisbon's airport.

Sobral

"Without wanting to sound presumptuous, this win is very important for Portuguese culture," Sobral said. "But I'm not a hero. That's (local soccer star) Cristiano Ronaldo."

A visibly tired Sobral added: "I'm exhausted and just want to rest. I know this won't last. I want to be known as a musician. Not as the Eurovision winner."

His gentle romantic ballad Amar Pelos Dois (Love For Both) conquered all in Saturday night's extravaganza, which was watched by millions of spectators around the world.

"I'm happy my romantic song won, and I hope the gala stops being a popularity contest," Sobral said at a news conference, while thanking Brazilian musician Caetano Veloso for his support.

The weekend was a busy one in Portugal, with Pope Francis' visit to Fatima and Lisbon soccer team Benfica winning its fourth straight Portuguese league title, also on Saturday.

But Sobral was the man of the hour on Sunday, after the Lisbon native with a heart condition put an end to the southern European country's long misery in the famed Eurovision contest, which he took in a landslide.

Sobral won easily, giving Portugal its first Eurovision win since it started competing in the international competition in 1964, and prompting congratulatory messages from the country's highest authorities.

"When we are very good, we're the best of the best. Congratulations Salvador Sobral," President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa wrote in a message Saturday night.

Prime Minister Antonio Costa followed the lead with a tweet of his own.

"A page of history has been written in Portuguese this evening at Eurovision. Bravo Salvador! Bravo Portugal," Costa said.

The previous best Portuguese Eurovision ranking was 6th place, back in 1996.

Unlike the 25 other competitors who performed on a wide stage backed by flashing lights, bursts of flames and other special effects, Sobral sang from a small elevated circle in the middle of the crowd, an intimate contrast to others' bombast.

"Music is not fireworks, music is feeling," he said while accepting the award.

The feeling was never more mutual than Sunday afternoon, when Sobral was embraced by his countrymen and women upon arrival, as hundreds physically swarmed him at the airport concourse, chanting his name while being escorted by police.

Among them was Claudia Zellen, a 39-year-old social worker who, like many others across the country, praised the winning song, which Sobral performed in Portuguese next to his sister, Luisa, who wrote the tune and sat beside him at the welcoming news conference.

Ashley Graham is a woman with curves but don't say plus-size

NEW YORK (AP)—Ashley Graham may have curves, but she hates the term plus-size.

"Does any woman really just come in and say, 'I'm a plus-size woman'? Maybe as a defense mechanism or maybe as a way to kind of cope with fitting into society but ... I just think it's divisive. I think labeling and putting a name on women in certain categories because (of) a (size) number inside of their pants isn't really getting us any farther in life."

She made it into the mainstream when she appeared on the cover of the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit 2016 issue. That led to other opportunities, including the cover of Vogue magazine and a gig as a judge on "America's Next Top Model."

Now Graham has written a memoir, "A New Model: What Confidence, Beauty & Power Really Look Like" (Dey Street Books).

She talked about her role models, achievements and critics in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

Associated Press: You're an advocate for healthy body acceptance. How is the fashion industry responding?

Graham: The fashion industry is into it. (Laughs.) I think what's really great is the fashion industry has really said, 'You know what, we're about inclusion right now.' We've had the body era. We've had the waif era, now here we are in the inclusivity era and it's race, it's age, it's gender, it's size.

In this May 9, 2017 photo, model and author Ashley Graham poses for a portrait in New York to promote her book, "A New Model: What Confidence, Beauty, and Power Really Look Like." AP

AP: You're known for your curves but you've been criticized for photos where it appears that you've lost weight. What do you say to that?

Graham: My weight is going to go up and down but, also, nobody can dictate what I'm doing. I'm a true size 14, I'm happy with my body, nobody has dictatorship over who I am.

AP: You also write in your book about fashion and curvy girls and how hard it is to find great clothes in bigger sizes.

Graham: I don't know who's making those clothes. I'm ready to come out with a line of clothes that's affordable, that's for all sizes. The beauty of being a curvier girl is that we're all shaped so differently. But it's sad because I really think there's a lot of designers who do go up to a size 22, 24 but buyers are not buying them because they don't think we're gonna come in and buy it. So, it's a vicious cycle, and I don't know where it starts and stops ... all I know is I'm talking about it and there are some designers who have been very open. Prabal Gurung is one who put curvy girls on the runway. Christian Siriano and Michael Kors, too, so it's happening.

AP: You have a stylist and you know designers. Have any said they won't dress you?

Graham: I haven't experienced firsthand negative feelings of designers not dressing me because of my size, but if I did ... you'd hear about it. (Laughs.)

AP: You also are a believer in vision boards, which are supposed to help people focus on specific life goals.

Graham: Vision boards are so important. If it's not even an actual vision board up in your room, then write down what you want. There's really something about getting it out and putting (it on) paper or a corkboard or whatever your thing is. I'm not a DIY girl whatsoever. It's really for me to be able to see something before I go to bed and when I wake up in the morning to remember what I want, but also to say, you know what, let god's will be done and hopefully this works out. I had Sports Illustrated on there, I had Vogue on there. It took me a couple years for the whole vision board to happen, but here we are.

How Charlie Hunnam talked his way into being King Arthur

NEW YORK (AP)—Charlie Hunnam says he convinced director Guy Ritchie to cast him as King Arthur after the two bonded over marijuana—talking about it, not indulging in it.

"I heard Guy Ritchie's 'King Arthur' and I thought, 'That's a brilliant idea,' and I just sort of saw it right away and wanted to be a part of it," said Hunnam while promoting the film Wednesday. "And so, we presented that to Guy, my agent, and he just really wasn't interested. And I said, 'That is just unacceptable, my friend.'"

So Hunnam booked a trip to London on a week off from filming "Sons of Anarchy" and landed a meeting with Ritchie. He had a standard pitch raring to go but quickly learned Ritchie didn't want to even talk about the movie.

"He actually creatively was interested in the medical marijuana business in California of which I knew a little bit about. So we ended up bizarrely talking about medical marijuana for two hours. But, what I realized in hindsight was, he just wanted to get to know me as a chap. He didn't really care about what my theories about Arthur was or what my opinions of the script were because, he already knew what he wanted to do. What he wanted to see was what I was about and whether we saw life in the same way."

Hunnam seems to be having a moment in Hollywood right now because "The Lost City of Z"—in which he stars as a British explorer—and "King Arthur" are coming out back-to-back. But he says that's just coincidental.

"'Arthur' is like a giant juggernaut of a movie and my fear was that 'Lost City of Z' would sort of get swallowed in the whole mix and so we fought to keep them really apart but we lost the fight," he said.

"I'm disconnected from that because the huge moment, for me, was when I shot the films and when I got the films. I mean, for an actor, the greatest moments of our lives is when we get the call telling us that we got a role that we really wanted."

"King Arthur: Legend of the Sword" opens on May 12.

AP

Charlie Hunnam arrives at the world premiere of "King Arthur: Legend of the Sword" at the TCL Chinese Theatre on Monday, May 8, 2017, in Los Angeles.

Man thanks iPhone's "Siri" for saving his life in explosion

WILMOT, N.H. (AP)—A New Hampshire man who was injured in a house explosion is thanking "Siri" for saving his life.

Christopher Beaucher says he was checking on his mother's vacant cottage in Wilmot on May 1 when he saw something suspicious and went inside.

He tells WMUR-TV when he switched on a light, the house exploded into flames.

Beaucher's face and hands were badly burned. He grabbed his cellphone, but was unable to dial due to his injuries. He says he somehow asked his iPhone's voice-controlled virtual assistant Siri to call 911, believing he was going into shock.

Beaucher is still undergoing treatment for his injuries, but says he hopes to return to his job as a cook and tend to his farm.

Authorities are still investigating the explosion.

David Lynch to receive medal from MacDowell artist colony

NEW YORK (AP)—David Lynch is this year's winner of the Edward MacDowell Medal in the Arts, a prize bestowed by the venerable MacDowell Colony for artists.

MacDowell officials announced Sunday that the maker of such acclaimed films as "Mulholland Drive" and "Blue Velvet" and the TV series "Twin Peaks" will receive the medal Aug. 13 at a public ceremony at the colony, based in Peterborough, New Hampshire.

The honor will be presented by MacDowell chair Michael Chabon, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist.

The MacDowell medal, established in 1960, is given to an artist "who has made an outstanding contribution to American culture."

Previous winners include Robert Frost, Toni Morrison and Stephen Sondheim.

Barry Manilow postpones 2 shows to rest vocal cords

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Barry Manilow has postponed two concerts in Los Angeles and Chicago on doctor's orders because of sprained vocal cords.

The 73-year-old singer was to perform Sunday night at the Forum in Inglewood, California, and at Allstate Arena outside Chicago on Wednesday.

A message posted Saturday night on his Facebook page said Manilow was ordered to rest, and he is "very sorry for any inconvenience this may cause."

The Chicago show has been rescheduled for July 29 and the Los Angeles show for Aug. 4.

Manilow is touring in support of his new album "This is My Town: Songs of New York." He last performed Friday in Durant, Oklahoma.

Depp to star in film as McAfee antivirus software inventor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Johnny Depp is set to star in "King of the Jungle," a dark comedy about the eccentric inventor of McAfee Antivirus software, John McAfee.

Condé Nast Entertainment said Sunday that the story is based on a Wired magazine article about the tech titan who left the business to live an isolated existence in the Belize jungle.

From "Ed Wood" screenwriting team Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski, "King of the Jungle" will follow the reporter assigned to write about the paranoid McAfee.

"King of the Jungle" will be directed by "Crazy. Stupid. Love" directors Glenn Ficarra and John Requa. International and domestic distribution rights are up for sale at the Cannes Film Festival.

Depp can be seen next in "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales," out May 26.

When man is ready to talk, his wife can't stay awake

DEAR ABBY: As the only income earner in our household of five, I work long hours. Sometimes I would enjoy talking about my day with my wife of 18 years. While she has no problem staying awake to watch TV or going out with her friends on the weekend, she usually falls asleep right in the middle of what I'm saying. It also happens in the car while I'm driving.

Contrast this to a recent trip she took with her friends where they talked and yucked it up for five hours straight. No matter how tired I am at the end of a long work week, I will do everything in my power to stay awake if there's something she needs to talk about. I can't figure out why she's not doing the same for me.

When I tell her it hurts my feelings that she doesn't think I'm important enough to make the effort to stay awake, or at least tell me she's too tired to talk, I get criticized for not being sympathetic to how tired she is. At first I thought it was true. But now I think her behavior is self-centered. Am I crazy to think this way?

UNHEARD IN ILLINOIS

DEAR UNHEARD: You're not crazy. You seem perfectly rational to me. What your wife is doing when you try to tell her that you are hurt is accuse you of doing exactly what she has been doing. To prevent your anger from building over this, discuss it with her when she's wide awake—in a marriage counselor's office, if necessary. Please do it before you encounter a lady who IS sympathetic and willing to listen, because there are plenty of them out there.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have had two big dogs for several years. In general, they are well-behaved, but they have a lot of energy. I have two kids and limited free time, and my husband no longer walks them. I refuse to do it because the dogs are very strong. They have knocked me over on a couple of occasions. Because the dogs have no release, we have come home several times to find they have destroyed one thing or another in the house (chewed up walls, furniture, carpet).

I suggested dog training and/or a dog walker, but my husband refuses and promises to start walking them again (which usually lasts a couple of weeks, at most). He was raised to believe that dogs are part of the family, while I was not, so when I suggest that we "rehome" the dogs to someone who can devote more time to them, he won't consider it, saying he could never do that to a family member.

I'm at my wit's end. The situation is affecting our marriage in a number of ways. Any advice you can offer would be greatly appreciated.

LOTS OF ENERGY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LOTS OF ENERGY: Gladly. Enlist your husband's help once again in walking those "family members" and suggest he take the kids along. They might enjoy the "family" outing, and it would give you some time to yourself. Your reason for not doing it is valid. You should not risk physical injury.

When he stops walking the dogs again in a few weeks—as he will—hire the dog walker. If he objects, ask him which is more expensive, this or fixing the damage the dogs invariably cause when they haven't had enough exercise to tire them out. I'm sure he will see your reasoning.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

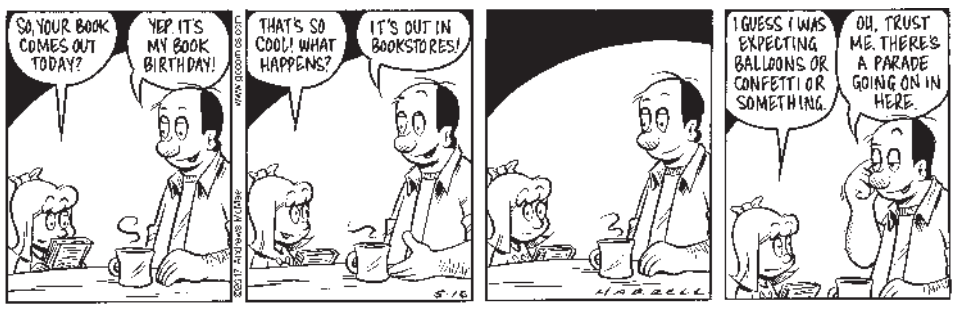
SOME BARBER YOU ARE! MOM SAYS THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO BUT WAIT FOR MY HAIR TO GROW BACK.
IN THE MEANTIME, I'VE GOT TO GO AROUND LOOKING LIKE I'VE GOT MANGE! I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY.
HAPPY?! YOU STIFFED ME! WHERE'S MY EIGHT BUCKS?!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SO, YOUR BOOK COMES OUT TODAY?
YEP. IT'S MY BOOK BIRTHDAY!
THAT'S SO COOL! WHAT HAPPENS?
IT'S OUT IN BOOKSTORES!
I GUESS I WAS EXPECTING BALLOONS OR CONFETTI OR SOMETHING.
OH, TRUST ME. THERE'S A PARADE GOING ON IN HERE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THE SPEED LIMIT IS 70 MILES PER HOUR I CLOCKED YOU DOING 70.0001.
YOU KNOW, THERE'S SUCH A THING AS A RADAR GUN THAT'S TOO WELL-CALIBRATED!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

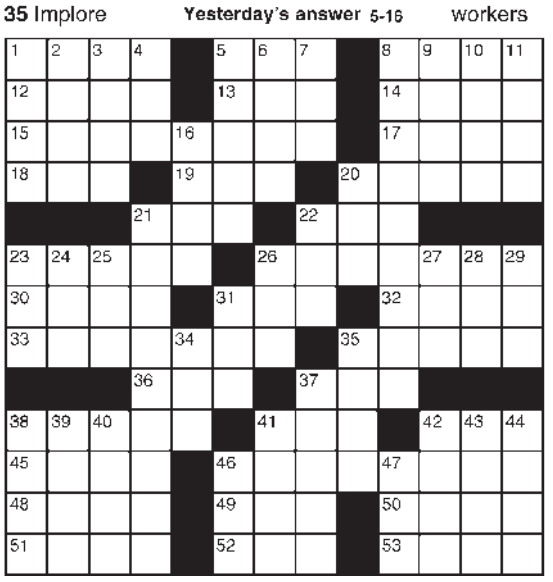
ACROSS
1 Taxis
5 Cutting tool
8 Closet invader
12 Grand Ole —
13 Sample
14 Canyon comeback
15 When lunch or dinner is eaten
17 Throat clearer
18 Chopper
19 Devious
20 Garden dwarf
21 Wrestling surface
22 Fiddle stick
23 Passover repast
26 Silvery metal
30 Met solo
31 High tennis shot
32 Division word
33 Ardor
35 Implore
36 Last (Abbr.)
37 Hearty quaff
38 Oyster's prize
41 Monk's title
42 Shade
45 Incite
46 Wanders
48 Stead
49 Priestly garment
50 Grate
51 Incubator noise
52 Dol. fractions
53 Remain

DOWN
1 Pro-longed sleep
2 Pinnacle
3 Highland hillside
4 Wd. division
5 Long-legged shore-bird
6 General assem-bly?
7 Zee preceder
8 At the same time
9 Twice cuatro
10 Not us
11 Abode
16 Despot
20 Inherited
21 Cut the mustard
22 Clothing protector
23 Tree fluid
24 Epoch
25 Insult, slangily
26 Chaney of horror films
27 Chemical suffix
28 Actress Hagen
29 '60s chic
31 Parking place
34 Unwell
35 Blueprint
37 Bedouins
38 "— Fiction"
39 Canal of song
40 Writer James
41 Pool table surface
42 Miami team
43 Celestial bear
44 Catch sight of
46 Buddy
47 Hosp. workers

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	L	B			Γ	A	B		D	O	Z	E
II	A	R	T		A	G	O		I	R	A	N
A	I	F	F		R	O	Z		N	O	G	O
B	A	R	N	S		G	O	W	N			
			N	A	B		S	Ξ	E	S	A	W
A	P	R	I	C	O	T		⁻	R	E	V	
D	U	E	S		G	A	L		J	E	E	R
O	P	E	R	A		R	E	M	A	R	R	Y
S	A	L	A	M	I		A	H	C			
			C	A	S	K		S	K	A	T	Ξ
F	I	N	K		L	I	I		E	L	O	N
A	C	N	E		E	S	Q		T	E	N	D
N	Y	E	T		S	S	S		X	E	S	

Yesterday's answer 5-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Megan Fox, 31; Tori Spelling, 44; Janet Jackson, 51; Pierce Brosnan, 64.

Happy Birthday: Use charm and knowledge to get what you want. Professional gains can be yours if you indulge in pastimes that will bring you closer to influential people. Mixing business with pleasure will be beneficial as long as you are honest about your skills and what you have to offer. You'll make the best impression if you say less and do more. Your numbers are 4, 18, 25, 31, 33, 42, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Look for opportunities, but don't jump into something without finding out the ups and downs that go along with what's being offered. Know your limitations and what you can and cannot tolerate before you make a commitment. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Do what you can to help others without getting angry. It's the attitude behind your help that will help you get something back in return. Use your charm and insight in whatever situation you face and you will excel. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Enthusiasm will help you win admiration from your peers. Expanding your circle of friends will lead to new interests that you may find captivating, but which could also make you less in control of your emotions. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Make a donation or offer your services to the community. Getting to know people and sharing your stories will give you insight into what types of recreational facilities or businesses will do well in your neighborhood. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Look for a diplomatic way to share your opinions. Emotional pressure or giving ultimatums will not help your cause. Look for positive options to demonstrate what you have to offer. Romance and personal gains are within your reach. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Communication will help you structure the things you want to do in a way that will use your skills effectively. Business meetings will turn out better than anticipated. Make changes for the right reasons, not due to emotional blackmail. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Ease into discussions that concern joint ventures, settlements or contracts. Don't feel pressured to make a decision unless you feel confident that you have all the facts. Put more emphasis on personal growth, physical appearance and health. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Ease into any emotional banter cautiously. Listen more and say less in order to avoid a confrontation. Use your creative skills to help you understand a child, sibling or friend who is doing things that are questionable. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Reuse an idea that has been successful in the past and you will get a high five. Work in conjunction with your romantic partner, family or a peer and you'll accomplish the most. Your outgoing personality will attract love and romance. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take care of matters concerning children, a pet or someone who depends on you before you move on to more pleasurable pastimes like a game of golf, meeting a friend for lunch or rearranging your living space to better suit your needs. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Revisit an experience that has had a profound impact on your life and use what you discover to help you make good financial, emotional and medical choices now. Personal activities should be geared toward building greater physical strength. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Reunite with someone who has helped you in the past or who you had a falling out with. Healing old wounds will help you move forward, and what you offer will be well-received and reciprocated. Make amends. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, tasteful and sophisticated. You are dedicated and persevering.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2		3				1	
	9			1	5		8	
		5				9		
	1		4		3			9
	6						4	
2			8		7		3	
		9				2		
	4		6	2			9	
	3				1		5	

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

2	9	1	4	8	5	7	6	3
5	6	8	7	9	3	4	2	1
4	7	3	6	2	1	5	9	8
3	8	7	5	1	6	9	4	2
6	2	4	9	3	7	1	8	5
9	1	5	2	4	8	6	3	7
7	5	2	3	6	4	8	1	9
8	4	9	1	7	2	3	5	6
1	3	6	8	5	9	2	7	4

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

COLLECTING SPORTS MEMORABILIA Solution: 4 letters

A	M	E	S	P	A	C	O	L	L	E	C	T	O	R
N	U	U	R	U	S	B	U	L	C	O	I	N	S	E
T	C	T	I	U	O	S	E	V	O	L	G	R	T	T
I	E	O	O	D	T	M	G	O	L	F	F	O	E	A
Q	R	A	L	G	A	A	A	Ⓟ	Ⓞ	Ⓗ	Ⓢ	O	M	E
U	T	B	M	L	R	T	N	F	R	U	T	K	L	W
E	I	A	O	S	E	A	S	G	S	R	F	I	E	S
Y	F	L	A	X	U	C	P	I	I	N	R	E	H	T
R	I	L	S	C	I	O	T	H	G	S	A	C	O	E
A	E	S	T	P	T	N	S	I	E	N	M	A	C	K
T	D	I	M	N	O	T	G	S	B	D	E	R	K	C
E	O	Y	E	J	E	R	S	E	Y	L	D	D	E	I
N	L	M	S	N	O	I	T	I	D	E	E	P	Y	T
O	E	M	I	T	E	F	I	L	R	E	T	S	O	P
M	O	U	N	T	A	B	L	E	G	E	L	L	O	C

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Yesterday's Answer: Keyboards

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Gemkell Saipan Corp. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Inventory Planner (1)
High School Diploma or GED with at least six (6) months retail experience and at least three (3) months of prior receiving, stocking and inventory experience. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Knowledge on the following equipment: POS terminal, photocopier/facsimile machine, and other items as necessary to accomplish assigned tasks. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards, with or without using a trolley, and move up to 50 pound items using a trolley. Must be able to drive Company provided vehicles. Must be able to bend, kneel, crouch, or crawl in awkward positions. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

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High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

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Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc.
is expanding and looking for an **Experienced Warehouse Manager** for our Saipan Location

Job Description
This position reports to the Construction Manager and COO and directs all activities in the facility necessary to operate and support a warehouse at maximum efficiency. The Warehouse Manager will perform a variety of management, administrative as well as physical functions to ensure the timely and accurate loading and unloading of commodities that transit the warehouse. This position will collaboratively work with the team and staff to ensure operational efficiency, safety, and controls are maintained within the warehouse and subject to continuous improvement.
Responsibilities
- Responsible for inventory control procedures
  - Manages inventory levels to ensure crews have material to meet installation needs, maintaining cycle count accuracy (scrap/adjustments/variance/loss reduction)
  - Meet or exceeds turn goals by balancing inventory levels to ensure targeted demand is fulfilled.
- Manages auditable records including but not limited to packing slips, pick lists, job close-out paperwork, warehouse safety audits, etc., ensuring documents are easily retrievable on demand
- Meets or exceeds spend targets as it relates to variable and fixed costs for the warehouse facility via systems currently in place, and/or works with appropriate staff to establish new systems of measurement
- Demand planning accountability to include appropriate supply Chain interface & partnership
- Metric achievement responsibility – processes & procedures implementation and actions to achieve all metrics
- Responsible for the performance management of a team of up to 3-5 employees
- Mentors and develops warehouse team members for future roles within the company and for vacation and absence coverage
- Determines work schedules and assigns areas of responsibility to warehouse personnel as well as packing, loading, crating, recouping and dispatching
- Establishes and controls handling and storage plans and procedures
- Schedules maintenance for install and audit vehicles where appropriate
- Maintains complete and accurate records of warehouse activities and warehouse personnel hours and continually reviews performance
- Maintains complete and accurate safety & hazmat records and complies with all appropriate standards
- Insures the security and proper management of the warehouse equipment and materials received and stored
- Maintain maintenance compliance for forklifts and moving equipment for proper functioning and maintenance
- Oversee receiving and verification freight against receiving documentation, noting discrepancies and/or damage and report findings
- Provides direction and guidance to staff on the vision, policies and procedures
- Reviews and approves all related appropriate departmental vendor invoices for accuracy and compliance
- Tracks and provides management reporting on key metrics. And meets all requisite metrics
- Follows safety regulations and holds monthly safety meetings for warehouse team members
- Streamlines warehouse operating procedures by identifying and eliminating redundant processes
- Trains warehouse and support staff with a 90% retention rate
- Other duties as assigned

Qualifications
- Must be a US Citizen or a Green Card Holder.
- A minimum of three years relevant warehouse experience
- Previous supervision or management experience
- Inventory planning systems experience a plus
- Material planning a plus
- Must be highly organized and process-oriented
- Possess strong problem-solving skills related to people and inventory
- Must be able to lift 60 lbs
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required
- Excellent customer service skills required
- Regular, reliable and predictable attendance required
- Ability to work well with others in a collaborative team environment
- Must have a valid state driver's license
- Must have a clean driving record. (example, no DUI in the last 5 years)
- Must be able to successfully pass a pre-employment criminal, driving and drug screen

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- Competitive compensation
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or email your Resume at: rrenojocnmi@micronesiarenewableenergy.com
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WHATZIT Solution: Chew the fat

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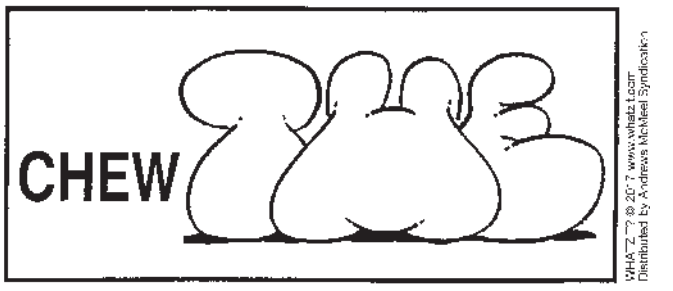
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in classified section

Warriors rally for 113-111 win after Spurs lose Leonard

AP
Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) passes the ball in front of San Antonio Spurs forward LaMarcus Aldridge (12) during the first half of Game 1 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals in Oakland, Calif., Sunday, May 14, 2017.

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Stephen Curry started the rally in the third to get Golden State going, then Kevin Durant was determined to do his part in the fourth.

Two of the biggest stars on one side delivered when the best player on the other went down.

Curry scored 40 points and hit a tying 3-pointer with 1:48 remaining, and the Warriors rallied from way behind after Kawhi Leonard was lost to an ankle injury to beat the San Antonio Spurs 113-111 on Sunday in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals.

"It's the playoffs. You've got to expect everything," Curry said. "I wouldn't call it smooth sailing at all. We've actually had to execute and get to this point. They came out and challenged us heavy, put a nice little run together. It took us a minute to figure it out to get up to that game speed after this little break. It's definitely a nice way to win Game 1. We've got to capitalize off that and start Game 2 a lot better."

Draymond Green gave Golden State the lead for good on a three-point play after the Warriors trailed by as many as 25 points.

Leonard left in the third quarter after he re-injured his left ankle, and the Warriors capitalized with an 18-0 run.

Durant scored 10 straight points during a key fourth-quarter stretch on the way to 34 points, while Zaza Pachulia had 11 points and nine rebounds.

Leonard had 26 points and eight rebounds. LaMarcus Aldridge produced another clutch playoff performance with 28 points and eight boards.

Somehow, these unusually careless, cold-shooting Warriors found a way to keep their unblemished postseason record alive at 9-0.

Game 2 in the series is Tuesday night back at Oracle Arena.

Curry scored 19 points in the third quarter and went 7 for 16 on 3s and 14 of 26 overall as the Warriors overcame their largest halftime deficit ever in the postseason at 20 points.

Leonard first went down after stepping on a teammate's foot along the bench after taking a shot. Pachulia later slid toward him as he came down from shooting and Leonard fell into the Spurs bench, grabbing his ankle.

Losing Leonard could be the story of this series, though coach Gregg Popovich had no update except that Leonard hurt the same foot. He shot 7 of 13 in 23 minutes to go with eight rebounds and three assists. He made all 11 of his free throws.

He sat out Game 6 of the last round against Houston, a 39-point, series-clinching win on Thursday, after injuring the ankle in a Game 5 overtime victory.

"It's a tough break. He's coming from an injury on that ankle and he tweaked it twice in the last minute he played," Manu Ginobili said. "So we couldn't react to his absence."

Durant has repeatedly spoken of elevating his game when it matters most—and wow did he do it at the very moment the Warriors needed a huge lift on their home floor.

His 3-pointer with 7:53 to play got Golden State within 94-88, then he drove to his left and right by Kyle Anderson for an emphatic one-handed slam the next possession to ignite a deafening sellout crowd. Durant hit another 3 at the 6:10 mark and a jumper the next time down before Shaun Livingston's driving dunk.

"Steph got us going in the third, I just tried to do my part in the fourth," Durant said.

Popovich lost to good friend and old pupil Mike Brown, filling in as Warriors acting coach for the ailing Steve Kerr—who played for Popovich.

Yet for much of the afternoon, the Spurs outplayed the mighty Warriors on both ends of the floor.

While Kerr spoke to the team at halftime, he watched the game from behind the scenes in the arena a day after returning to the practice floor for the first time in more than three weeks.

"He's gone through hell," Popovich said pregame. "I'm sure most people don't really know, and I'll leave that to him to describe as much as he wants to describe. But it's been very difficult for him. He's shown a lot of courage getting through what he's gone through."

No Love lost: Cavs star accepts reduced role as champs roll

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kevin Love doesn't mind being a third wheel or a fourth or even a fifth.

His scoring average has dipped and he's taking fewer shots. And he's OK with that. He has not been a major part of Cleveland coach Tyronn Lue's plans in the playoffs so far. And he's not complaining about that, either.

In short, Love isn't demanding more, well, love.

"I told him (Lue), 'We're 8-0. I don't mind it,'" he said Thursday following practice. "If I get five or six shots, if I get 15 shots, it doesn't matter to me, as long as we win. I've been in this position before. We're having success so I'm happy. Feel good."

As the Cavaliers wait for the winner of the Boston-Washington series as their opponent in the Eastern Conference finals, Love's reduced role in his third postseason for Cleveland has become a topic for discussion.

And while the All-Star forward has found himself at the center of previous controversies during his time with the Cavs, there are no hidden meanings or subliminal messages at work this time.

Love was once something of an outsider in Cleveland, but those days are long gone and he's now a pivotal part of everything for the defending champions, who are undefeated through two rounds.

But don't be fooled by his statistical slide to this point of the playoffs. That could soon change as well.

When the Cavs resume their march toward a possible second title next week, Lue hinted that Love, who has even sat out the entire fourth quarter in two victories, could be a bigger factor.

"Some of it's my fault because we haven't really featured him a lot because of the matchups we had on other teams," Lue said. "He has been great. His whole mindset is winning and that's what it's all about in the playoffs. In this next series, we have some matchups he can definitely take advantage of and it's on me to make sure we do that."

During Cleveland's sweep of Toronto, Love averaged just 12 points—he averaged 19 during the regular season—and he scored just 5 in Game 4 on 2-of-7 shooting.

One of the reasons for Love's drop-off against Toronto is that he was often guarded by Serge Ibaka, a defensive specialist acquired in part to take away one of Cleveland's most potent weapons. Also, with the way LeBron James and Kyrie Irving are playing, the Cavs didn't need as much from Love.

Their "Big 3" has been reduced to a "Terrific 2" but things could be much different in the conference final, where matchups could dictate more minutes for Love.

Love's ability to post up and pop outside for 3-pointers makes him challenging to cover. Lue knows there may be a chance to get the 6-foot-10 big man more involved.

"The playoffs is a game of matchups," he said. "That's why Toronto went out and got Ibaka, to try and slow Kevin down. Maybe we didn't feature Kevin enough against Toronto, maybe we showed 'em too much respect and that's on me. But next round I've got to do a better job of really getting Kevin involved and really establishing Kevin."

Love's willingness to accept a lesser role in the postseason is not only a sign of his comfort in Cleveland, but also his willingness to put the team first.

"It's just growth," Lue said. "Growth for Kevin, growth for this team and it's all about winning. When you come here it's all about one thing, and that's just trying to win a championship. However you gotta do it, you gotta do it. And it's about sacrifice. Scoring the basketball is not the most important thing, it's the small things that Kevin's been doing that goes uncharted."

Love's defense, so often questioned in the past, has been solid and he remains a force on the boards. And, at some point in this postseason, the Cavs may need him to have a 20- or 30-plus-point game.

Cleveland's halfway to the 16 wins for another title. If eight more follow, Love will likely have a hand in them.

"He hasn't gotten a lot of touches," Lue said. "That's on me to get him more involved. What we had going offensively was working, and we had to stay with it to get to 8-0, where we're at right now. And he understands that and next series will be totally different."

Yankees split doubleheader with Astros

NEW YORK (AP)—George Springer and Alex Bregman paid tribute to Derek Jeter in their own way — with memorable first-inning home runs off Masahiro Tanaka.

Springer led off with a drive run into Monument Park just after Jeter's No. 2 was retired there in a pregame ceremony and Bregman capped a six-run first inning with a grand slam that propelled the Houston Astros to a 10-7 win over the New York Yankees on Sunday night and a doubleheader split.

Josh Reddick homered off the facing of the right-field second deck a pitch after Springer's first homer. Springer also homered leading off the second and Carlos Beltran hit an RBI double against Tanaka (5-2), who left trailing 8-0 after 1 2/3 innings and set career highs for runs and home runs allowed.

Backed by a 9-0 lead, Charlie Morton (5-2) gave up four runs in 5 2/3 innings.

In the opener, Chase Headley hit a tiebreaking bases-loaded triple off Chris Devenski in New York's six-run seventh inning, and the Yankees rallied to beat Houston 11-6.

Adam Warren (1-0) got the win as the Yankees stopped a three-game slide. Starlin Castro, Aaron Judge and Brett Gardner homered for New York.

Evan Gattis had two hits and two RBIs for the Astros. Will Harris (1-1) got the loss.

Phillies 4, Nationals 3, game 1

Nationals 6, Phillies 5, game 2

In Washington, Ace Max Scherzer endured a scary line drive to grind out six innings while Michael Taylor hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the eighth and Washington overcame another dodgy bullpen outing in the nightcap for a doubleheader split.

Bryce Harper went 3 for 4 with an RBI double in Game 2. He also hit his 12th home run in Game 1 but Philadelphia won the opener of the day-night affair after Washington's third blown save in six games.

In Game 2, Freddy Galvis gave Philadelphia another lead against the bullpen when his two-run triple off Jacob Turner (2-1) put the Phillies ahead 5-4 in the eighth.

After striking out three times, Taylor homered off Pat Neshek (0-1), belting a first-pitch slider off the left field foul pole. The runs were Neshek's first allowed this season.

In the first game, Ty Kelly hit a tiebreaking RBI single in Philadelphia's three-run ninth. Aaron Altherr opened the ninth with his eighth homer. Maikel Franco and Cameron Rupp hit consecutive doubles off Shawn Kelley (3-1), and Galvis walked before Kelly delivered against Koda Glover.

Joaquin Benoit (1-2) pitched a scoreless eighth for Philadelphia, and Hector Neris finished for his fourth save.

Rangers 6, Athletics 4

In Arlington, Texas, Nomar Mazara had the go-ahead hit for the second game in a row as the Rangers extended their winning streak to a majors-best six in a row.

Mazara hit a tiebreaking RBI single with two outs in the seventh right after Elvis Andrus' RBI double, both off Ryan Madson (0-3).

Carlos Gomez had three hits, including a single to start the Texas seventh, but left the game with a right hamstring strain after scoring from second on Delino DeShields' two-out infield single.

Dario Alvarez (2-0) got two outs for the win and Matt Bush the save.

Cardinals 5, Cubs 0

In St. Louis, Yadier Molina homered twice for the Cardinals and Adam Wainwright threw seven sparkling innings.

Molina recorded the third multihomer game of his career. He drilled a two-run homer off Jake Arrieta (4-3) in the second inning and added a solo drive in the eighth.

Matt Carpenter also homered for St. Louis while Wainwright (3-3) allowed four hits, struck out three and walked four.

Rockies 9, Dodgers 6

In Denver, Pat Valaika homered twice and drove in four runs and Antonio Senzatela got the win in an emotional Mother's Day start for Colorado.

Senzatela (6-1) was pitching on Mother's Day for the first time since his mom died of breast cancer last July. Like many around the league, Senzatela used a pink bat to raise awareness about the disease. The rookie right-hander is tied for the major league lead in wins.

Nolan Arenado also went deep as the Rockies salvaged a split of the four-game series.

Los Angeles led 4-3 before Valaika hit a two-run homer in the fourth off Julio Urias (0-1).

Greg Holland struck out the side in the ninth for his 16th save.

Angels 4, Tigers 1

In Anaheim, California, Angels star Mike Trout homered in his third straight game and Alex Meyer pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning.

AP

Retired New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter poses with a plaque bearing his number 2 and Yankees team owner Hal Steinbrenner, and Steinbrenner's wife Christina during a pregame ceremony retiring his number 2 in Monument Park at Yankee Stadium in New York, Sunday, May 14, 2017.

Danny Espinosa hit a tiebreaking homer off Justin Verlander while Andrelton Simmons added an RBI single to chase Verlander (3-3) in the seventh.

With a first-inning shot to left for his 11th homer, Trout homered in three straight games for the third time in his career, also accomplishing the feat in September 2013 and June 2016.

Meyer (2-1) struck out seven in 6 1/3 innings. Bud Norris got the save.

Brewers 11, Mets 9

In Milwaukee, Manny Pina hit a three-run homer with two outs in the eighth inning, capping Milwaukee's comeback from a six-run deficit.

Pina hit a 3-2 slider from Addison Reed (0-2) over the wall in left. The Brewers scored 10 runs over their final three innings, teeing off on the Mets bullpen after a solid start by Jacob deGrom.

Neftali Feliz (1-4) got the win and Corey Knebel picked up his first save.

Royals 9, Orioles 8

In Kansas City, Missouri, Mike Moustakas homered and drove in four runs to help Kansas City rally for the win.

Jorge Soler and Drew Butera also connected for the Royals. Soler's 464-foot shot to center leading off the seventh was the longest by a Kansas City player this season.

The Orioles' Chris Davis reached five times on a solo homer, RBI single and three walks. Caleb Joseph hit a two-run shot in Baltimore's four-run fourth.

Blue Jays 3, Mariners 2

In Toronto, Kevin Pillar homered with two outs in the ninth inning to give Toronto a sweep of the four-game series.

Pillar sealed the win with a blast to left off Edwin Diaz after Justin Smoak hit a two-run homer for Toronto.

The Blue Jays have won five straight and seven of eight and lead the majors with 21 homers in May.

Rays 11, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Steven Souza Jr. hit a three-run homer and Jesus Sucre drove in three runs as Tampa Bay beat Boston.

The Rays won for the second time in three games, a day after striking out 16 times in a loss. At 4 hours, 32 minutes, it was the longest nine-inning game in Rays history.

Souza went deep during Tampa Bay's seven-run ninth inning.

Boston starter Drew Pomeranz (3-3) came out with left triceps tightness before the fourth inning. He gave up two runs and three hits.

Indians 8, Twins 3

In Cleveland, Jason Kipnis homered twice and drove in four runs to help the Indians snap a three-game losing streak.

Kipnis finished with four hits. Carlos Santana and Lonnie Chisenhall also homered for Cleveland, while Indians right-hander Trevor Bauer (3-4) allowed three runs in six-plus innings.

Jorge Polanco hit a solo shot in the seventh, giving the Twins a home run in 15 straight games, one short of the club record.

Marlins 3, Braves 1

In Miami, Tyler Moore hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning to spoil a shutout bid by R.A. Dickey as the Marlins broke a five-game losing streak.

It was Moore's first homer of the year and the fourth pinch-hit shot of his career.

Kyle Barraclough (1-0) pitched out of a bases-loaded situation in the seventh by retiring Kurt Suzuki. A.J. Ramos pitched around a leadoff walk in the ninth for his fourth save.

Atlanta had eight hits and six walks but stranded 12 runners.

Atlanta's Nick Markakis hit a two-out single in the fifth to drive home the game's first run. Dickey (3-3) allowed five hits in seven innings.

White Sox 9, Padres 3

In Chicago, pinch hitter Melky Cabrera had a key two-run single in Chicago's eight-run eighth inning.

Cabrera, whose hit went through the right side of the infield, was one of 14 batters in the inning against three San Diego relievers.

The rally denied Jered Weaver his first win with the Padres after his best outing of the season. Ryan Buchter (2-2) took the loss, walking three batters while recording only one out.

Michael Ynoa (1-0) earned the win with a scoreless eighth. The White Sox got their second straight victory after a six-game slide.

Giants 8, Reds 3

In San Francisco, Brandon Belt homered again, helping San Francisco to its first three-game winning streak of the season.

Belt hit his third home run in four games. Joe Panik and Eduardo Nunez each drove in two runs and Buster Posey had two hits for the Giants.

Scooter Gennett drove in two runs for the Reds, who lost their third straight.

Pirates 6, Diamondbacks 4, 10 innings

In Phoenix, Jose Osuna hit a two-run homer for Arizona with two outs in the 10th inning and Tony Watson escaped a bases-loaded jam in the bottom of the inning.

Osuna hit a 3-1 pitch from Tom Wilhelmsen (0-1) out to right-center field, forcing a split of a four-game series. It was Osuna's second career homer.

Watson (2-0) pitched two scoreless innings. He got Jake Lamb out on a ground ball to second with the bases loaded to end the game.

Josh Bell and Andrew McCutchen also went deep for the Pirates.

Si Woo Kim keeps his cool and wins Players Championship

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Si Woo Kim walked up to the 16th green at the TPC Sawgrass and couldn't resist looking across the water at an island.

For those trying to catch Kim in The Players Championship, and for thousands of fans who anticipated the drama this tournament so often delivers, the infamous par-3 17th hole with its island green represented the best chance that the pressure might finally get to him.

He never flinched.

"I wasn't nervous at all because I was leading," Kim said. "I just focused on the middle of the green."

Without so much as a deep breath, the 21-year-old from South Korea drew back his wedge, fired it at the middle of the green and resumed his march into the record book as the youngest winner of The Players Championship in its 44-year history.

And it wasn't just that hole.

Kim also drilled his tee shot down the middle of the 18th fairway, setting up one final par—from off the green, of course—to cap a final round that was flawless, at least on his scorecard. He was the only player Sunday who didn't make bogey in his round of 3-under 69 for a three-shot victory.

He never trailed after making a 25-foot birdie putt on the seventh hole. During the crucial stretch on the back nine of the Players Stadium Course, Kim never faced a par putt longer than 2 feet. It was as though he had been in this position before, even though he had only one previous PGA Tour victory and this was only his second time competing in The Players Championship.

"He played like someone that was doing it for five or six years, like it was just another round of golf," said Louis Oosthuizen, who played the final round with Kim and finished in a tie for second with Ian Poulter.

"It just shows you how good a player he is and how cool and calm he is," Oosthuizen said. "Never once did he look flustered at all."

Kim saved that for the trophy presentation, when he realized he had beaten the deepest and strongest field in golf, and all the rewards that come with it. He earned $1.89 million, along with a five-year exemption on the PGA Tour, a three-year exemption to the Masters, U.S. Open and British Open, and most likely a spot on the Presidents Cup team later this summer.

"I feel like I'm still dreaming that I won this championship," Kim said.

It wasn't a dream, even though he played so flawlessly and with so little suspense that he could easily have put everyone else to sleep.

Kim shot 68-69 on the weekend and made only one bogey on a Players Stadium Course that was even tougher because of a strong wind for so much of his final round. When he rolled in a 25-foot birdie putt on the seventh hole, Kim took the lead and never gave it back.

"As good as he played yesterday, he's obviously gone out there today and played even better," Poulter said. "He's gone clean out there today, which is extremely impressive under that pressure."

That's not to say Sunday at Sawgrass was devoid of any entertainment, good and bad.

AP

Si Woo Kim of South Korea, holds The Players Championship Trophy, Sunday, May 14, 2017, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Poulter sure did his part. He only got into the tournament a few weeks ago when the PGA Tour realized a clerical oversight regarding his return from a foot injury last year. He made the most of it by becoming the only serious threat to Kim on the back nine.

Poulter hit what he described as a shank - "You'd like me to spell it for you?" he jokingly asked after his round of 71 - on the 18th hole, took a penalty drop from a palmetto bush, saw a gap in the trees, and hit wedge through it and onto the green, and he came within inches of making it. Instead, he tapped in for bogey.

The runner-up finish brought Poulter $940,000 and enough FedEx Cup points to effectively secure his PGA Tour card for next year.

Rafa Cabrera Bello of Spain was never going to win, but it will be hard to forget how he finished. Officially, he had only one putt over the last three holes. Cabrera Bello made the first albatross 2 on the par-5 16th with an 8-iron that caromed off the side of a bunker, bounced toward the hole and struck the pin before it disappeared. He followed with a short birdie on the 17th and a long par from just off the 18th green.

J.B. Holmes brought the wrong kind of a show—an 84, the highest final round of anyone who had at least a share of the 54-hole lead. He started Sunday in a tie for first. The big hitter from Kentucky finished in a tie for 41st.

Kim finished at 10-under 278, replacing Adam Scott in 2005 (at age 23) as the youngest winner of The Players.

"You have to respect some good golf," Poulter said. "And that's exactly what he's done."

Mini Games golf qualifier at Laolao Bay

A qualifying tournament for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games will be held this weekend on the east and west courses of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The qualifier will be played for 36 holes with the exact date and start time to be announced before the week ends.

Organizers of the trial are looking to send two junior players (male or female), two adults, and a coach to the Mini Games that will be held in Port Villa, Vanuatu this December.

Players interested in competing in the qualifier must be a U.S. passport holder as required (for CNMI representatives) under the eligibility rules of the Mini Games.

For more information, contact Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho at 287-7369. ***(PR)***

MCS

From Page 28

in the first quarter, while Santos, Travilla, and Manibusan teamed up for MCS Gray for their 10-4 advantage. MCS Gray then increased the lead to double figures at halftime, 25-8, as Flores and Han found their targets, while Manibusan added two more field goals.

The Mark Toves-coached MCS Gray went on to keep its big lead in the second half, as MCS Blue knocked in no more than three field goals in the third and fourth quarters, while the eventual champion continued to spread the wealth en route to the 28-point winning margin.

The title victory—MCS' fifth in a row—was a good send-off gift for Travilla, Han, and Karleen Reyes, who played their final game for the Lady Knights last weekend.

Travilla and company automatically advanced to the championship game after topping the elimination round, while MCS Blue notched the second finals berth following a 35-15 triumph over Marianas Baptists Academy last Tuesday.

MCS Gray 49 – Manibusan 12, Travilla 11, Flores 9, Han 8, Santos 4, Reyes 3, Villagomez 2.

MCS Blue 21 – Paraiso 6, Han 4, Cho 4, Alcantara 3, Buenaventura 2, Rabang 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-4, 25-8, 35-14, 49-21.

BRAVES

From Page 28

error, while the Braves got three more earned runs.

The Twins countered with only one run at the bottom of the fifth with Brandon Tesiro making it home off a fielder's choice, while the Braves got the one run back at the top of the sixth, also from a fielder's choice for a 15-6 advantage.

The Braves ended up winning by seven after the Twins added just two runs in the last inning. Actually, the Twins had a good chance of scoring more when they loaded the bases with two outs and after D.J. Aldan and Terrel Rabago reached home. However, Braves third baseman Jylon Sablan picked up the short shot of Albert Adriano and threw to Norita for the final out.

Meanwhile, in the second game last Saturday, the Docomo Ol'Aces downed Pirates-1, 22-16, to improve their record to 4-7.

The Ol'Aces have one game left in the regular season, but are already assured of the playoff slot, joining the Falcons, Braves, Kagman Little Legals (9-3), Comets (9-3), Pirates-2 (6-5), McDonald's (6-6), and Bank of Saipan (4-7) to the next round. Pirates-1, which dueled Bank of Saipan in the third match (make-up) last Saturday, and the Twins (0-11) are out of the playoffs.

It was a come-from-behind victory for the Ol'Aces, as they faced a 9-15 deficit after the first three innings. The Ol'Aces managed to recover and stole the win when they combined for 13 runs in the fourth and fifth inning and held Pirates-1 to two in the last three innings.

The Ol'Aces capitalized on Pirates-1's defensive lapses in the fourth inning, gaining five runs from the latter's miscues and the two off passed ball and a fielder's choice. Then in the fifth inning, Tristan Rogolifoi hit a two-RBI doubles and was driven home by Derek Sasamoto's single as the Ol'Aces added six more runs for a 22-15 lead.

Pirates-1, which started the game with seven runs and registered four apiece in the second and third, were silent in the fourth and fifth before tallying two in the last inning and falling short in its bid to regain the lead and take the win.

TENORIO

From Page 28

ers were updated last Friday and were based on 42 or more times at bat.

In the pitching race, there is also a tie between A.J. Lizama and GSM's Kelvin Kapileo, as they are perfect (0.00 ERA). Kapileo did not yield a single run in the 18.1 innings he pitched for the pennant champion GSM (14-0), while Lizama was also flawless in 22.2 innings. With the Bears having one more game, Lizama is now torn between playing or not in their last match as one mistake can cost him the pitching title. Lizama and Kapileo lead eight other pitchers, who made it to the rankings after working the mound in 17 or more innings.

Meanwhile, Tenorio topped three more categories. His 26 runs are ahead of the 23 of the BSI Aces' Jesus Iguel, while the GSM player also leads the league in RBIs (22) and triples (4). In the home run department, the Falcons' Giovanni Mira, Alepuyo, D-9ers' E.J. Tenorio, and Titanum's Brian Camacho have one each, while the D-9ers' Roke Tenorio is on top of the doubles list with his 8.

In the strikeouts department, Titanium's Joe Palacios is way ahead and the unofficial winner with his 57 Ks.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	22	13	.629	—
Baltimore	22	14	.611	½
Boston	19	18	.514	4
Tampa Bay	19	21	.475	5½
Toronto	17	21	.447	6½

Central Division

Minnesota	19	15	.559	—
Cleveland	19	17	.528	1
Detroit	18	18	.500	2
Chicago	17	18	.486	2½
Kansas City	16	21	.432	4½

West Division

Houston	26	12	.684	—
Texas	19	20	.487	7½
Los Angeles	19	21	.475	8
Seattle	17	21	.447	9
Oakland	16	21	.432	9½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	24	13	.649	—
New York	16	20	.444	7½
Philadelphia	14	21	.400	9
Miami	14	22	.389	9½
Atlanta	13	21	.382	9½

Central Division

St. Louis	21	15	.583	—
Milwaukee	21	17	.553	1
Cincinnati	19	18	.514	2½
Chicago	18	19	.486	3½
Pittsburgh	16	22	.421	6

West Division

Colorado	24	15	.615	—
Los Angeles	22	16	.579	1½
Arizona	21	18	.538	3
San Francisco	15	24	.385	9
San Diego	14	25	.359	10

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League Finals

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mt. Carmel School Gray players pose with their championship trophy after beating Mt. Carmel School Blue, 49-21, in the girls division finals of the 2016-2017 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mt. Carmel School Blue players pose for a photo during the halftime break of their game against Mt. Carmel School Gray.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School Gray's Tawnie Manibusan, left, looks at the basket first before pulling up for a shot against Mt. Carmel School Blue's Francesca Bucalig during the third quarter of their finals match.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School Gray's Quina Flores, right, picks up the ball and is all set for a point-blank shot.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School Gray's Jan Travilla unloads a jumper in front of two Mt. Carmel School Blue defenders.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School Blue gets ready for the inbound play.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Mt. Carmel School Blue player takes the rebound.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School Blue's Theresa Toves beats a Mt. Carmel School Gray player to the ball.

Warriors rally for 113-111 win after Spurs lose Leonard

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MCS Gray eases past MCS Blue in finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mt. Carmel Scholl Gray's Tawnie Manibusan, left, pulls up for a shot against Mt. Carmel School Blue's Theresa Toves during the third quarter of their title game in the girls division of the 2016-2017 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Mt. Carmel School Gray dominated the all-Lady Knights finale in the girls division of the 2016-2017 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League after routing the MCS Blue, 49-21, last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Tawnie Manibusan anchored MCS Gray's easy victory in the winner-take-all title match as she scored a game-high 12 points, while Jan Travilla also broke into double figures, adding 11. Three other MCS Gray players contributed at least two field goals apiece with Quina Flores chipping in 9, and Han Ya and Aurel Reyes contributing 8 and 4, respectively.

MCS Gray's better basketball skills and more experience were unmatched by the younger crew of MCS Blue, allowing the eventual champion to lead in the final from start to finish. MCS Blue, which was coached by Catherine Attao-Toves, did not stand a chance against MCS Gray, as the former struggled with its offensive game, failing to score in twin digits in each of the four quarters.

Only Joannie Paraiso made it to the board for MCS Blue

See MCS on Page 26

Tenorio, Cabrera move up to batting charts

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Go See Mark's Anthony Tenorio and Titanium's Jerald Cabrera boosted their respective bids for the batting championship as they moved on top of the leaderboard with only a few more games left in the regular season of the 2017 Saipan Baseball League.

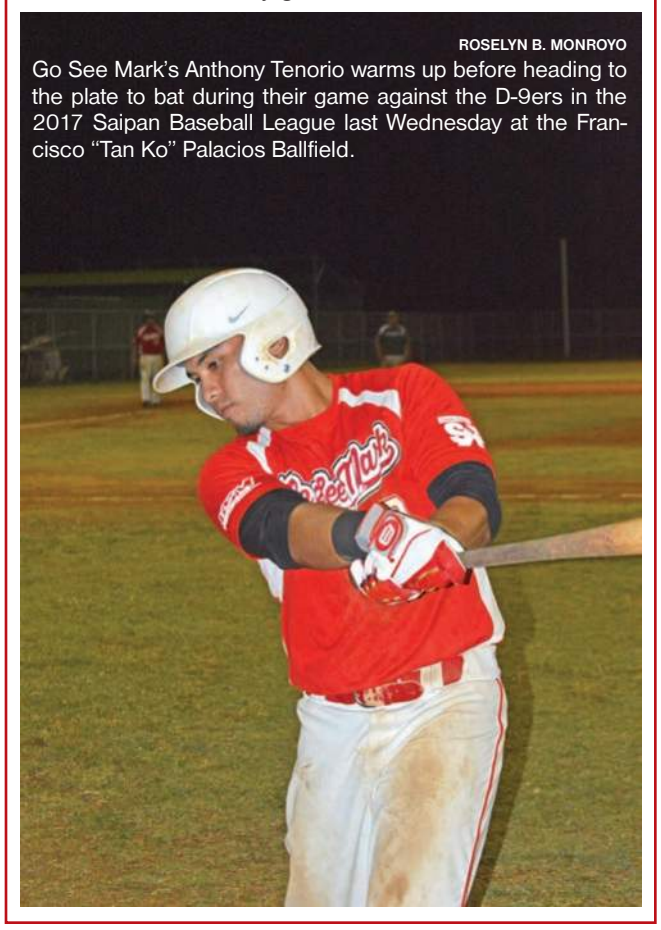
Tenorio and Cabrera both finished the double-round robin elimination with a batting average of .429 to grab the lead from the Falcons' A.J. Evangelista. The GSM player went 24-for-56 at bat, climbing from No. 4 to a tie for No. 1 spot after going 4-for-6 in their 12-2 victory over the D-9ers last week. Cabrera, on the other hand, hit 5-for-8 in their last two games for his 21-for-49 clip to jump from No. 6 to No. 1.

Both Cabrera and Tenorio now have to wait for the remaining matches in the elimination to find out if they get to keep the top spot and win the batting championship.

Only two players are likely to challenge the co-leaders for the batting crown with Evangelista in third place with his .412 average and A.J. Lizama of the defending champions Chalan Kanoa Bears in fourth after posting .393. Evangelista (21-for-51) and his Falcons have one more game left in the regular season, while Lizama (22-for-56) also has to play a make-up match (versus Blue Jays)

The BSI Aces' Lamarc Iguel and Ben Jones, Jr. are ranked fifth and sixth, respectively, with their batting averages of .383 and .381, but could no longer catch up with the leaders, as their team is done with its regular season games. The GSM' Jessel Brel (.380) and Pat Alepuyo (.370) and Titanium's Jhace Palacios (.379) and Nathan Camacho (.364) rounded out the Top 10.The battling lead-

See TENORIO on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Go See Mark's Anthony Tenorio warms up before heading to the plate to bat during their game against the D-9ers in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League last Wednesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Braves in pennant hunt; Ol'Aces advance

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Braves officially forced a rubber match against the Falcons for the pennant in the Major division of the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball after winning their final game in the regular season last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Braves topped the Twins in last weekend's curtain-raiser, 15-8, to finish the elimination with a 10-2 record—the same mark that the Falcons had. The Braves and the Falcons will battle for the pennant and the No. 1 seed in the playoffs this Saturday.

Shortstop Patrick Celis towed the Braves to win No. 10 as he went 2-for-2 at bat and scored three runs, three RBIs, and two doubles. Catcher Heath Camacho added two runs off his 3-for-4 performance at bat and contributed two RBIs, while first baseman Tristan Norita also hit 3-for-4 at bat and tallied three runs.

The Braves led right from the get-go, leaving no room for a Twins upset. The winning team scored in the first three innings, combining for eight runs against the five of the Twins. Neither squad then made it to the board in the fourth inning, but the Braves regrouped quickly with a six-run top of the fifth to attempt a breakaway. Celis blasted a two-run double in that inning and also reached off a Twins

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Docomo Ol'Aces' Chanis Borja pitches at the bottom of the sixth inning against Pirates-1 during their game in the Major division of the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

See BRAVES on Page 26